THE

WEEKLY MAGAZINE,

OR

EDINBURGH AMUSEMENT.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24. 1776.

RETROSPECTIVE VIEW *of* AFFAIRS *relating to the* American *Colonies*. [P. 101.]

THE fiſhery-bill [March 9.] had ſcarcely cleared the houſe of commons, when the miniſter brought in another, "To reſtrain the trade and commerce of the colonies of New Jerſey, Pennſylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the Britiſh iſlands in the Weſt Indies, under certain conditions and limitations." [Vol. xxvii. P. 411.] As meaſures of this nature were now familiar, he only thought it neceſſary to obſerve, that, as the ſouthern provinces had acceded to the non-importation and non-exportation agreement, as well as the northern, it was conformable to reaſon and juſtice that they ſhould equally feel our reſentment, and experience the ſame degree of puniſhment.

Nothing that could be called a debate aroſe upon this motion. The ſtrange fluctuation and contradiction that appeared in our public councils, were, however, commented upon on both ſides of the houſe, and lamented on one. It was ſaid, that only a few days before they were mocked with conciliatory propoſitions, and nothing was to be heard but conceſſion and moderation; temptations were to be held out to the better diſpoſed colonies, to induce them to break the confederacy; the wheat was to be ſeparated from the chaff, the elect from the reprobate; but now we are told, that the only way to reſtore peace and harmony, to reconcile the Americans cordially to our government, and to ſave our commerce from that deſtruction which ſeems almoſt inevitable, is to lump them all indiſcriminately, without diſtinction of friend or foe, in one common puniſhment; and to drive the whole continent of America into deſpair, as a neceſſary preparative to their being reſtored to good temper.

During the time that this bill was in agitation, a long ſeries of important evidence in behalf of the Weſt India merchants and planters, and in ſupport of the petition which they had lately preſented, was laid before the houſe. The celebrated Mr Glover, the author of Leonidas, appeared as agent and manager for the petitioners upon this occaſion. This gentleman conducted the buſineſs with great ability, and gained much applauſe by the eloquence and vaſt extent

of commercial knowledge he diſplayed, in a very long ſpeech which he delivered at the bar of the houſe, upon ſumming up, combining and explaining the different parts of the evidence. In this ſpeech he ſtated, with uncommon preciſion, the immenſe value of the objects that were under conſideration; endeavoured to ſhew, that the ſpirit which had for ſome time been ſo prevalent, both within doors and without, for the extorting of pecuniary contributions from the colonies, was inconſiſtent with true policy, with a right knowledge of commerce, of their circumſtances, or of the benefits we already derived from them; and expatiated moſt pathetically upon the fatal conſequences which he apprehended from a perſeverance in the preſent meaſures.

This courſe of inquiry and evidence has been the means of rendering the vaſt importance and value of the ſugar colonies more generally underſtood, than they perhaps would otherwiſe have been, and they are matters which may well exerciſe the ſpeculations of the preſent, and the admiration of future ages. It appeared by a very moderate calculation, in which large allowances were made for every poſſible exceſs, that the capital in thoſe iſlands, conſiſting in cultivated lands, buildings, negroes, and ſtock of all kinds, did not amount to leſs than the immenſe ſum of ſixty millions ſterling. It ſeems probable, though it could not be preciſely aſcertained, that more than one half of that vaſt capital of 60,000,000l. was either the immediate property, or was owing to perſons reſident in this country. It alſo appeared, that the revenue gained above 700,000l. a-year upon the direct Weſt India trade, excluſive of its eventual and circuitous products, and of the African trade. It was fully ſhewn, that this immenſe capital and trade, as well as the African, neither of which could ſubſiſt without the other, were from nature and circumſtance both totally dependent upon North America. Such were the ſtakes which we were now letting at hazard.

In a few days after [March 22.], Mr Burke made his conciliatory propoſitions with reſpect to the colonies [Vol. xxviii. p. 25.]. Theſe propoſitions were contained in a ſet of reſolutions, and were accompanied and elucidated by that celebrated ſpeech, which has been ſince publiſhed, and is in every body's hands.

He obſerved, that the queſtions on which they were that day to decide, were, Whether they ought to concede; and what that conceſſion ought to be; and that, to enable them to determine both on the one and the other of thoſe great queſtions with a firm and preciſe judgment, it was neceſſary to conſider diſtinctly the true nature, and the peculiar circumſtances of the object before them; becauſe after all their ſtruggles, whether they would or not, he inſiſted, that they muſt govern America, according to that nature, and to thoſe circumſtances, and not according to their own imaginations; not according to abſtract ideas of right; nor by any means according to mere general theories of government.

Upon this principle he examined and explained, with the utmoſt minuteneſs and accuracy, the internal and external, the natural and accidental circumſtances of the colonies; he conſidered them with reſpect to ſituation, reſources, extent, numbers, amazing growth of population, rapid increaſe of commerce, fiſheries, and agriculture; from theſe he ſhewed their ſtrength and importance: he then inquired into that unconquerable ſpirit of freedom, by which they are diſtinguiſhed from all other people now exiſting in the known world; this violent paſſion for liberty he traced from the ſources of deſcent, education, manners, religious principles, forms of government, and diſtance from the original mover of government.

From all theſe circumſtances he deduced the line of policy which ſhould be purſued with regard to America. The detail was enriched and illuſtrated with a number of the moſt intereſting facts, and curious obſervations, tending to eſtabliſh the ideas of American government which he had laid down; to ſhew, that it muſt be adapted to the feelings, to the eſtabliſhed habits and received opinions of the people; and that all ſchemes of government which had been or ſhould be propoſed, without paying a due attention to theſe matters, would be found ineffectual, dangerous, or ruinous.

On this motion, and on the whole matter, the debate was long and animated. It was objected, in general, that theſe reſolutions abandoned the whole object for which we were contending. That in words indeed they did not give up the right of taxing; but they did ſo in

768. The firſt reſolution, they ſaid, was artfully worded, as containing in appearance nothing but matters of fact; but if adopted, conſequences would follow highly prejudicial to the public good. That the mere truth of a propoſition did not of courſe make it neceſſary or proper to reſolve it. As they had frequently reſolved not to admit the unconſtitutional claims of the Americans, they could not admit reſolutions directly leading to them. They had no aſſurance, that, if they ſhould adopt theſe propoſitions, the Americans would make any annual returns on their ſide; and thus the ſcheme, purſued through ſo many difficulties, of compelling that refractory people to contribute their fair proportion to the expences of the whole empire, would fall to the ground. The houſe of lords would not, they ſaid, permit another plan, ſomewhat of the ſame kind, ſo much as to lie on their table; and the houſe of commons had in this ſeſſion already adopted one, which they judged to be conciliatory, upon a ground more conſiſtent with the ſupremacy of parliament. It was aſſerted, that the American aſſemblies had made proviſion upon ſeveral occaſions — but this, they ſaid, was only when preſſed by their own immediate danger, and for their own local uſe. But if the diſpoſitions of the colonies had been as favourable as had been repreſented, ſtill it was denied, that the American aſſemblies ever had a legal power of granting a revenue to the crown. This they inſiſted to be the privilege of parliament only; and a privilege which could not be communicated to any other body whatſoever. In ſupport of this doctrine, they quoted the following clauſe from that palladium of the Engliſh conſtitution, and of the rights and liberties of the ſubject, commonly called the Bill, or Declaration of Rights; viz. that "Levying money for, 'or to the uſe of the crown, *by pretence of prerogative*, without grant of parliament, for a longer time, or in other 'manner, than the ſame is or ſhall be 'granted, is illegal."

This clauſe, they inſiſted, clearly inforced the excluſive right in parliament of taxing every part of the empire. And this right, they ſaid, was not only prudent, but neceſſary. The right of taxation muſt be inherent in the ſupreme power; and being the moſt eſſential of all others, was the moſt neceſſary, not only to be reſerved in theory, but exerciſed in practice; or it would, in effect, be loſt, and all other powers along with it.

On the other ſide, it was urged, that the clauſe in the declaration of rights, ſo much relied on, was calculated merely to reſtrain the prerogative, from the raiſing of any money within the realm, without the conſent of parliament; but that it did not at all reach, nor was intended to interfere, with the taxes levied, or grants paſſed by legal aſſemblies out of the kingdom, for the public ſervice.

The previous queſtion was moved on the firſt propoſition, and carried by 270 to 78.

The ill ſucceſs that had attended all conciliatory propoſitions hitherto, excepting thoſe which originated from government, did not deter another gentleman on the ſame ſide (Mr Hartley), within a very few days after [March 27.], from making a ſimilar attempt [V. xxviii. P. 61.]. This was regulated on the conciliatory propoſition moved by lord North. It propoſed that a letter of requiſition ſhould be ſent to the colonies by a ſecretary of ſtate on a motion from that houſe, for contribution to the expences of the whole empire. On his plan, the inеſtimable privilege of judging for themſelves of the expediency, fixing the amount, and determining the application of the grants, would ſtill be left in the aſſembles. The compulſory threat would be left out. It removed the objection of a revenue raiſed without conſent of parliament, ſince this requiſition would be made at their expreſs deſire.— Other motions followed, not for the repeal (as in the propoſitions lately negatived), but the ſuſpenſion of certain acts for three years.

The motion was rejected without a diviſion.

During the progreſs of the ſecond reſtraining bill, an additional clauſe was moved for by the miniſter, whereby the counties of Newcaſtle, Kent, and Suſſex, on Deleware, in North America, were included in the prohibitions of that bill. This motion was carried without a diviſion: but was productive of ſome pointed obſervations on its being unprecedented and unknown in the annals of parliament, and on the injuſtice and cruelty of condemning people unheard, and even without inquiry. To theſe charges it was anſwered in general, that th oſe

counties were equally culpable with the other provinces, and that the papers before the houſe contained ſufficient information to juſtify the inſertion of that clauſe.

Upon the third reading of the bill [April 5.], conſiderable debates aroſe, and a young nobleman of the firſt rank and greateſt hopes was much diſtinguiſhed, not only by his oppoſition to the bill, and his total condemnation of the whole ſeries of American meaſures, but by the very pleaſing ſpecimen of modeſty and ability which he now exhibited in his firſt ſpeech. He however delivered his ſentiments with great reſolution and firmneſs; declared that he was glad a debate had taken place, as it afforded him an opportunity of avowing his political creed, and of making ſome open profeſſion of his ſentiments on ſo very important, and very ſerious a national queſtion. He predicted that this bill would immediately bring on a civil war.

From the other ſide it was anſwered, that his apprehenſions of a civil war were not grounded in any knowledge of the Americans, who would bluſter indeed, but never fight, or think of oppoſing gen. Gage with arms; and as to the cruelty of this act, it was to be no longer ſevere than they were rebellious. The matter having been before amply diſcuſſed, the debate was not long, nor the attendance conſiderable on the part of the minority. The bill paſſed without difficulty.

During theſe tranſactions ſeveral petitions were received from manufacturing towns in Great Britain and Ireland againſt the coercive acts. Some counter petitions were alſo received, calling for an inforcement of the laws of Great Britain, as the only means of preſerving a trade with the colonies, and aſſerting that the trade hitherto had ſuffered none, or an inconſiderable diminution by the combination of the Americans.

Other petitions were preſented to the crown and equally diſregarded. One from the Britiſh ſettlers in Canada againſt the Quebec bill, in which they ſtate, that, upon the faith of the royal proclamation of the 7th of October 1763, they had ſettled in that province, purchaſed houſes and lands, and entered ſo extenſively into trade, commerce, and agriculture, that the value of land and the wealth of the inhabitants were thereby more than doubled; and after ſtating their dutiful behaviour to government, and the peace and amity in which they live with the new ſubjects, grievouſly complain, that they find themſelves, by the late act of parliament, deprived of the franchiſes which they inherit from their anceſtors, and cut off from the benefit and protection of the Engliſh laws; that in their ſtead they are to be governed by the laws of Canada, to which they are utter ſtrangers; and which they conſider to be diſgraceful to them as Britons; ruinous to their property, by taking away the invaluable privilege of trials by juries; and deſtructive to their perſonal liberty and ſecurity, as well by diſſolving the *habeas corpus* act, as by the extraordinary powers which are lodged in the hands of the governor and council.

In this ſeaſon of public diſcontent, when all men's minds were agitated on one ſide or other, the city of London, not diſcouraged by the fate of all its applications for a number of years paſt, once more approached the throne [April 10.], with an addreſs, remonſtrance, and petition; upon a ſubject, and in a manner, as little calculated to obtain a favourable reception as any of the preceding [Vol. xxviii. P. 120.].

Towards the cloſe of the ſeſſion [May 15.] Mr Burke acquainted the houſe, that he had received a paper of great importance from the general aſſembly of the province of New-York; a province which yielded to no part of his majeſty's dominions in its zeal for the proſperity and unity of the empire, and which had ever contributed, as much as any, in its proportion, to the defence and wealth of the whole. He obſerved, that it was a complaint, in the form of a remonſtrance, of ſeveral acts of parliament, ſome of which, as they affirmed, had eſtabliſhed principles, and others had made regulations, ſubverſive of the rights of Engliſh ſubjects. That he did not know whether the houſe would approve of every opinion contained in that paper; but that as nothing could be more decent and reſpectful than the whole tenor and language of the remonſtrance, a mere miſtake in opinion, upon any one point, ought not to prevent their receiving it, and granting redreſs on ſuch other matters as might be really grievous, and which were not neceſſarily connected with that erroneous opinion. He repreſented this direct application from America, and dutiful procedure of New-

York, in the preſent critical juncture, as a moſt deſirable and even fortunate circumſtance; and ſtrongly urged, that they never had before them ſo fair an opportunity of putting an end to the unhappy diſputes with the colonies as at preſent; and he conjured them, in the moſt earneſt manner, not to let it eſcape, as poſſibly the like might never again return.

He then moved, That the repreſentation and remonſtrance of the general aſſembly of the colony of New-York, to the honourable the knights, citizens, and burgeſſes of Great Britain, in parliament aſſembled, be brought up [Vol. xxviii. P. 278. 286]. The miniſter immediately moved an amendment, which was an indirect though effectual negative upon the motion, by inſerting, that the ſaid aſſembly claim to themſelves rights derogatory to, and inconſiſtent with, the legiſlative authority of parliament, as declared by an act of the 6th of his preſent majeſty, intitled, &c. It was contended in oppoſition to the motion, that the honour of parliament required, that no paper ſhould be received by the houſe which tended to call in queſtion its unlimited authority; that they had already relaxed in very eſſential points, but they could not hear any thing which tended to call in queſtion their right of taxation; that the declaratory act muſt be repealed before ſuch a paper was admitted to be brought up; that the houſe never received even petitions of that nature; but that here the name of a petition was ſtudiouſly avoided, leſt any thing like an obedience to parliament ſhould be acknowledged.

On the other ſide it was ſaid, that without regard to any abſtract queſtions upon the authority of parliament, or the rights of individuals, a particular conſideration was due, in the preſent circumſtances, to the temperate conduct and exemplary good behaviour of the province of New-York. In the midſt of all the violence which overſpread the continent, that colony preſerved her legiſlature and government intire; and when every thing ſeemed elſewhere tending to a civil war, ſhe dutifully ſubmitted her complaints to the juſtice and clemency of the mother-country. That aſſembly which was now applying to them, in ſuch moderate and reſpectful terms, for a redreſs of grievances, was the ſame, which not long before had been ſo highly applauded by the miniſter, for refuſing to accede to the aſſociation of the general congreſs. Were the miniſters then determined, or did they think it could anſwer any uſeful purpoſe, to drive every part of America into an equal ſtate of deſperation? There were times and ſeaſons when wiſe men would avoid the diſcuſſion of odious queſtions. New-York, it was ſaid, was already in bad odour with her ſiſter-colonies from the coolneſs and temperance of her conduct; with what face can ſhe reſiſt their reproaches, or perſevere in that moderation, when it is known that ſhe is treated with a contempt and diſregard, which could not perhaps be juſtified with reſpect to the moſt contumacious? What reſource will New-York have, in ſuch circumſtances, but by endeavouring to regain the eſteem and confidence of the other colonies to exceed them in violence?

During theſe debates, the queſtion was repeatedly called for, and being at length put upon the miniſter's amendment, it was carried upon a diviſion by a majority of 186 to 67; and the queſtion being then put upon the amended motion, it was rejected without a diviſion.

The aſſembly of New-York had alſo tranſmitted a memorial to the lords, and a petition to the king. The duke of Mancheſter brought in the memorial to the lords, and moved for its being read. This motion brought on much diſcuſſion; but which ſerved ſufficiently to ſhew the general temper and complexion with reſpect to the ſubject. The propoſed remedies were rejected with indignation, and an end at length put to this altercation, by calling the queſtion, when, upon a diviſion, the motion for reading the memorial was rejected by a majority of 20, the numbers being 45 againſt, to 25 who ſupported the queſtion. Such was the fate of the applications made by the aſſembly of New-York for a redreſs of their ſuppoſed grievances.

The day before this tranſaction, a petition to the lords from the Britiſh inhabitants of the province of Quebec, was preſented to that houſe by lord Camden [Vol. xxviii. P. 283.]. This petition was founded upon the ſame principles with that which was lately preſented to the throne; and the petitioners, after ſtating the grievances which they ſuffered in conſequence of the late law, conclude by imploring their lordſhips' favourable interpoſition, as the hereditary guardians

of the rights of the people, that the ſaid act may be repealed or amended, and that the petitioners may enjoy their conſtitutional rights, privileges, and franchiſes.

After long debates, in which much extraneous matter ſeemed to be purpoſely brought in, and a long law conteſt, between a learned lord high in office and the noble framer of the bill, the motion for its rejection was carried upon a diviſion, at ten o'clock at night, by the majority of 60, the numbers being 88, who oppoſed, to 28 lords only, who ſupport the bill. The two royal dukes, and brothers, were in the minority upon this diviſion.

About the ſame time [May 18.], another petition from the ſame inhabitants of Quebec, was preſented to the houſe of commons by Sir George Saville, in which, beſides the matters they had ſtated in the two former, they repreſented, that a petition to his majeſty, in the name of all the French inhabitants of that province, and upon which the late law had been avowedly founded, was not fairly obtained, and had neither received the concurrence, or even been communicated to the people in general; on the contrary, that it had been carried about in a ſecret manner, and ſigned by a few of the nobleſſe, advocates, and others who were in their confidence, through the ſuggeſtions, and under the influence of the clergy; and they affirmed, that the inhabitants in general, the French freeholders, merchants, and traders, were as much alarmed as themſelves, at the introduction of the Canadian laws. They concluded by praying, that the ſaid act may be repealed or amended, and that they may have the benefit and protection of the Engliſh laws, in ſo far as relates to perſonal property; and that their liberty may be aſcertained, according to their antient conſtitutional rights and privileges.

Though this motion produced ſome conſiderable debates, the ſubject was already ſo much exhauſted, that they could not be very intereſting: excepting that the miniſter, in the courſe of them, avowed his intention, if it ſhould become neceſſary, of arming the Canadians againſt the other colonies. He, however, declared his firm perſuaſion, that the troubles in America would be ſettled ſpeedily, happily, and without bloodſhed. The motion was rejected upon a diviſion by a majority of more than two to one, the numbers being 174 to 86.

In the ſpeech [May 26.] from the throne, [Vol. xxviii. P. 316.] the moſt perfect ſatisfaction in their conduct during the courſe of this important ſeſſion, was expreſſed. Much concern was alſo expreſſed, that the unhappy diſturbances, in ſome of the colonies, had occaſioned an augmentation of the land-forces, and prevented the intended reduction of the naval eſtabliſhment from being compleated; and great thanks were returned for the chearfulneſs and public ſpirit with which they had granted the ſupplies.

[*To be continued.*]

HINTS *upon burleſquing the* SCRIPTURES.

To the PUBLISHER *of the* WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

SIR,

IF a divine revelation be neceſſary to point out the road to true happineſs; and if all efforts ſpringing from Nature's light be to no purpoſe in this reſpect (which juſt now I ſuppoſe, as being capable of demonſtration, were it a proper place), would it not be natural to think that all men would ardently importune the Deity to grant it? If God ſhould make ſuch a revelation every way anſwering the end, conſidering that eternal happineſs and miſery are the points in queſtion, it would ſure be as natural to think that every man would, with the keeneſt eagerneſs, ſearch this invaluable treaſure, attend to its precepts, dread the threatenings, believe and embrace its promiſes; and, in ſhort, pay ſuch an attention to the whole, as to have his every word dictated by, and his every action regulated according to, the divine rule. Such a ſuppoſition, inſtead of being irrational, or any way extravagant, is very natural. That the caſe, however, is quite otherwiſe, facts and experience, things which admit of no contradiction, have plainly declared: For,

God has condeſcended to make a revelation of his mind, a ſyſtem of religion, which, when obſerved and practiſed, infallibly leads us to true happineſs in this and the next world: but this, inſtead of being univerſally read, ſtudied, and attended to, is almoſt wholly neglected. This revelation is contained in the *Bible*, called ſo by way of eminence, as if in the world there were no other but *the Book*;

and with the greateſt juſtneſs and propriety may it be ſo deſigned; for, in proportion as eternal happineſs exceeds every temporary object, ſo far does this every other book. Were books valued and read according to their intrinſic value, and the real wiſdom of their authors, the Bible doubtleſs would be preferred; becauſe every other author is nothing when compared with the all-wiſe God! But, even in human compoſitions, this is far, very far from being the caſe. Stupid, filly, fulſome novels are run upon and read, when the moſt ſenſible books on any, on every ſubject, are never looked into but by a few. As to human writings, the very beſt which can be ſaid of even the moſt ſenſible is, that they make wiſe; but it is the diſtinguiſhing character of the ſacred writings, that they make *wiſe to ſalvation*.

I mean not to expoſe either the abſurdity or impiety of this neglect of the ſacred page, but ſhall confine myſelf to one abuſe, which, I am ſorry to ſay, very much prevails, viz. burleſquing the ſcriptures. Among profane wits this is very common. One would be almoſt tempted to think that they had no other end, nay, that they were at great pains in reading the word of God, only to be able on every occaſion to ſet it in the moſt ſtrange and ridiculous light. But, bad as this is, it is not all: Even they who, in other reſpects, are patterns for learning, taſte, and true religion, at times fall into this abuſe, who certainly, at leaſt, forget themſelves, when they will not forego the pleaſure of a laugh at ſuch expence.

Were there nothing elſe in this practice, it is contrary to all good breeding, and a breach of what among men is reckoned common decency. Had any man, merely for the good of ſociety, put himſelf to the trouble of publiſhing a book, particularly if by it he gave evidence of being poſſeſſed of as much perfection as human nature is capable of in its preſent ſtate, would it be uſing him well to apply his ſentiments, or even phraſes (if peculiar ones), in the moſt ridiculous, witty, not to ſay wicked point of view? Would not the perſon who made ſuch an uſe of this publication be juſtly deſpiſed by every one of manly ſenſe? Nay more, would not even the very feelings of human nature dictate a diſlike at ſuch a practice? And if the abuſe in this caſe would be ſo ſhocking, in the other it as much exceeds as God is higher and more perfect than man;—as his diſintereſtedneſs is above any thing of this kind in the creature, and as the excellency of divine revelation exceeds the puny ſparks of wiſdom to be found in the beſt and moſt unexceptionable of human compoſitions. But, whatever drollery might be played off at the expence of the author in his abſence, not even the moſt daring ſure would have the impudence contemptuouſly to do the ſame before his face. Would any man have the effrontery in the moſt ſhocking manner, to wreſt, in his preſence, his every ſentence to the very worſt of purpoſes!—But in this reſpect the Deity is uſed exceſſively worſe; for either the wit muſt ſuppoſe God is not with him, which is the very ſame with denying his exiſtence altogether; or, which is ſtill as bad, can dare, with the utmoſt levity, to ridicule him to his face: and ſtrange fortitude he muſt have to uſe the Deity as none would dare to uſe a fellow-creature!

But, beſides this, if the conſequences of this practice are attended to, the impiety of it will appear in a ſtill more ſtriking light. Suppoſe, as is often the caſe, the companies where ſuch burleſque is practiſed to be promiſcuous, how dreadful are the effects which neceſſarily follow! The righteous muſt be offended and grieved, and that in proportion to the attention which they pay to the divine word, and the ſincere love and unfeigned regard they have for it, which doubtleſs are very great. It is all their comfort in this world, and their ſole dependence for the next. No perſon poſſeſſed of any ſpirit could ſit, and with indifference hear his neareſt relations or his friends, dear to him as his ſelf, befooled and ridiculed, though it ſhould only be for their foibles. No: his indignation muſt riſe. In theſe endearing characters God ſtands to every genuine Chriſtian; for his glory and honour is he ſtill more deeply engaged; and from him foibles and imperfections are infinitely removed. Since this is the caſe, it muſt grieve them, and draw tears from their eyes, to hear their beſt friend, kindeſt benefactor, moſt affectionate parent—their God, ſo much diſhonoured! And, beſides this, how anxious muſt be their concern for fellow-creatures, perhaps too nearly related, ſo

little attentive to the welfare and happineſs of their immortal, their better part!

And not leſs fatal is the effect this practice naturally has with the wicked. It cannot but tend to leſſen their reverence for the Deity, and their regard for his word. When they ſee others often engaged this way, it naturally tends to lead them alſo to begin; or if they have already entered upon the fatal road, they are encouraged to continue and proceed. Any degree of ſeriouſneſs they might have is perfectly baniſhed by witticiſm and laugh: and very fond of drollery they muſt be who chuſe to *laugh* themſelves to the infernal regions! In ſhort, they are tempted to believe the whole of religion to be only prieſtcraft and a farce; and their thoughts of the ſcriptures muſt be in proportion as they are the foundation of the whole of what they profanely call the tricks of the clergy. How wicked muſt it be, for any perſon thus to treat that revelation which was granted to point out the heinouſneſs of moral evil, that he might avoid it---the beauty of good works, that he might abound in them---and the mercy of God, that he might lay claim to it! Did a caſe of this kind happen in common life, the abſurdity of it would appear at firſt ſight. Should, for inſtance, any number of rebels lying in jail be taken notice of by ſome perſonage of influence, and by his intercetion procure a pardon at a good deal of expence, and even with the loſs of what was very dear to him---Should he at large write them an account of what he had done, with the pardon, and inſiſt for their friendſhip in time coming—and ſhould his every word be ridiculed, jeered, and ſcoffed at: himſelf, with all his labour and good offices, made the ſubject of their raillery, buffoonry and wit; every one of them maliciouſly endeavouring to outſtrip another in expoſing him to contempt—Should this happen, I ſay, would not every man of ſound ſenſe pity their wickedneſs, abhor their malice and ingratitude, and declare them juſtly worthy of the ſevereſt puniſhment?—The application is eaſy and ſtriking.

But whence is it that, of all books, men find the greateſt eaſe in burleſquing the Bible? Often have I thought of this, and know no other way by which it can rationally be accounted for, but by that corruption which is natural to man in his preſent ſtate, the very nature of which is intirely againſt God and his law. I ſhall only add, that, in proportion as this is a proof of corruption in the heart of man, with equal propriety may it be conſidered as a proof of the divine origin of the Bible. This may be looked upon as a ſtrange argument in ſupport of the divine authority of the ſcriptures; but, if properly conſidered, will be found not to be ſo inconſiderable as at firſt ſight may be imagined. What, pray, is it that raiſes the laugh? What is it that makes the witticiſm? It all goes upon the ſuppoſition of its being the divine word, and all the drollery ariſes from its being capable of ſuch an application. The whole lies in the ſtrange contraſt between ſolemn and ludicrous ideas. In ſhort, take away all notion of divine from the phraſe, and the whole ſport is loſt.

Upon the whole, Mr Printer, the offence is public, and deſerves public notice. I am not fond of religious diſputes any where, far leſs in periodical publications. To theſe I never wiſh to give riſe. To cram Magazines with papers of this kind is, in my opinion, loſing their real deſign. Againſt any thing of this kind you have wiſely ſhut the door. I am fully perſuaded the preſent paper cannot have the ſmalleſt tendency that way; for I cannot imagine any perſon would *openly* appear in defence of burleſquing the ſcriptures, even on ſuppoſition of their denying the divine authority, and far leſs any who *really* believes them to be the word of God. Though you hate *diſputes*, I have no idea of your hating *ſerious* things; and as a great number among the vaſt variety of your readers have a ſerious turn, your inſerting this paper may, perhaps, be as agreeable to thoſe of ſuch a caſt as to,

SIR,

Yours, &c. PHILOBIBLOS.

Paiſley, October 1776.

For the WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

THE YOUNG FARMER.

No. II. [P. 80]

AS the firſt impreſſions made on the minds of youths can never be expunged, there are truths which will move the paſſions, and engage attention, wherein any reader will find himſelf greatly intereſted. Scenes of diſtreſs,

rather than fabulous ſtories or novels, ſhall be laid before him, ſuch as maſſacres, murders, robberies, the cruelties of the inquiſition, &c. Theſe being parts of hiſtory, are worthy of remembrance. There is ſomething in human nature very odd! We are intereſted, entertained, ſurpriſed, ſorry, ſhocked, melted into pity, yea, ſympathize and participate of the miſeries and ſufferings of innocence in diſtreſs, yet, like the ſquirrel with the rattle-ſnake, have not the power to ſhut our ears, or eyes, or to go from it. Thus the pictures of ſuch horrid ſcenes, perpetrated perhaps many years ago, may have ſuch an influence on the mind of my pupil, as to make virtue amiable and vice odious, and at the ſame time excite a curioſity for further knowledge, which he will ſoon perceive can be had from books more readily than from his companions.

When my pupil can read a chapter in the New Teſtament without ſpelling, I will make him a preſent of a bee-hive, and now and then go with him to view it; then explain to him their œconomy and government, the mathematical conſtruction of their hexagonal cells, and the uſe they are appropriated to, ſome as nurſeries or neſts, into each of which only one egg is laid, with a proper quantity of food, then cloſed; the others converted into ſtore-rooms, and filled with proviſions for the winter: next their baniſhing all uſeleſs mouths; but, above all, their induſtry is a home leſſon to man, and as ſuch bid him follow their example, to earn and deſerve the bread he eats, leſt his fate be like that of the drones. When he can write after a copy ſet before him, he ſhall go to market with me, and make his own bargain in buying a female pig. When he can write a letter to me, he ſhall again go to market, and buy half a dozen of pidgeons for himſelf. When he can ſubtract one ſum from another by rule of arithmetic, he ſhall again go to market, and buy a ewe-lamb for himſelf. When he has learned that the ſun riſes in the eaſt, ſets in the weſt, and that at noon he is directly ſouth; that the oppoſite point at that time is due north: When he can, by that knowledge, ſhew me the four cardinal points, and their intermediate ones, ſouth-eaſt, ſouth-weſt, north-weſt, and north-eaſt; and, as a proof thereof, can tell me how the wind blows, then he ſhall buy for himſelf a cow-calf.

When he has read ſome books on agriculture, and made ſome obſervations on farming, and can tell me what manure and grain are fitteſt for a field I ſhall ſhew him, he then ſhall go to market, and buy for himſelf the prettieſt filly he can meet with, which he ſhall have the management of, and ride when it is fit: All theſe and their offſpring ſhall have the run of my fields, and be ſolely his property. When he can rationally account for a field which I ſhall ſhew him, from half the ſeed formerly allowed bearing double the quantity of good grain and ſtronger ſtraw without manure than it uſed to do with it, only by being better tilled and harrowed, then ſowed in drills, and the alleys betwixt the ridges frequently horſe-hoed, then I ſhall make him a preſent of a diagonal barometer, and ſhew him the uſe thereof, by explaining to him the reaſon why the mercury riſes in the table in clear and froſty weather; becauſe the air then is free of vapours, of courſe not interrupted from preſſing with a weight of fifteen pounds or more on every ſquare inch; but when the air has millions of vapours ſwarming in it, theſe very ſmall but numerous particles, rarified by heat, take up more ſpace than the ſame weight of air would do; therefore little bits of cork or bubbles of air ariſing to the top of the liquor, or ſmoke preſſed upwards by the circumambient air, theſe exhalations aſcend, and, preſſing againſt the atmoſphere that is above them, diminiſh its weight in proportion to the force with which they act, which will often take off a fifteenth part of the whole gravity of the atmoſphere; ſo, according to the weight that lies upon the mercury at the bottom of the tube, which is left open on purpoſe, the pillar of mercury will ſink or riſe in the tube; hence it will be eaſily conceived that a preſſure of fifteen pounds will cauſe the quickſilver to riſe higher conſiderably than fourteen pounds can do. This alſo proves the air to be juſt the reverſe of what the vulgar think of it. When they call it heavy, it is lighteſt; and when they ſay it is light, it is heavy. Wind has alſo the ſame effect as watery vapours on the mercury, and the reaſon is plain, becauſe wind is air moving horizontally, and its weight is diminiſhed in proportion to the velocity with which it moves. Was it to fly as quick as lightning, it would loſe all its gravity, and, for want of an external

preſſure, the air that attenuates our fluids to promote their circulation in our bodies, inſtantly expanding, would tear us to pieces, and make its eſcape.—But wonderfully are we made, and as wonderfully preſerved!

As the barometer prognoſticates any change of weather, perhaps a day before it happens, but always ſome hours, it is therefore a mighty neceſſary, inſtructive, and ornamental piece of furniture in any houſe, eſpecially in a farmer's. It will adviſe him when to ſow or reap; but, above all, in the hay-harveſt will direct him whether to ſpread or cock his hay. I dare ſay every year this inſtrument, if attended to, would ſave its owner double its value; and yet the ignorance or obſtinacy of many who are called farmers, is ſuch, that I do not believe two of the profeſſion in a county have that director. If my young farmer has any genius or curioſity, viewing the barometer often will give him a thirſt for natural philoſophy. He cannot even perceive the properties of the air with regard to that inſtrument, without a deſire of knowing ſomething of the other three elements alſo. When he diſcovers an inclination for that, or any other art or ſcience, then I ſhall judge it high time to ſend him to ſchool, where I ſhall keep him till he is an adept in arithmetic and book-keeping; and, if his maſter adviſes it, till he has made ſome progreſs in the mathematics: If he has an ear for muſic, I will have him learn church-muſic at leaſt. Latin is too coſtly and tedious, and, when acquired, but of little uſe to the farmer: therefore French and natural philoſophy ſhall ſupply its place, which, with a knowledge of figures and the mathematics, will be more than moſt of his profeſſion have, though not more than he will find uſeful and beneficial.

All theſe may be acquired in two or three years time, if he has a genius; if not, half the time is too much to be thrown away on a blockhead. During his reſidence in town, he ſhall be taken now and then, by a judicious perſon, to ſee the working ſhops of different artiſts, to ſound his genius: If I find it leads him more to any of theſe than to farming, his choice ſhall be mine. There I ſhall break through cuſtom. Whatever he is fitteſt for, not what is fitteſt for him, ſhall be purſued upon: for it too often happens that the parent's choice and his inclinations do not tally in theſe two moſt eſſential articles, how to live, and with whom to live for life. Led by folly, pride, or avarice, many parents do not ſtudy their children's diſpoſitions and natural bent ſo much as they ought in theſe important points, which is the reaſon we ſee ſo many neglect their families and buſineſs, then break; whereas, if they loved either, hard labour would be only like a match at cricket or foot-ball, or ſuch diverſion. It is a ſure maxim, that the man who makes his buſineſs his pleaſure, and his houſe his home, muſt thrive: therefore I am determined to give my pupil fair play, by letting him judge for himſelf. Though young, like Achilles in petticoats, his natural bent will ſhew itſelf; and that ought always to be encouraged and purſued. If, on frequent trials, he diſcovers no greater inclination to any other buſineſs than to farming, then I may with boldneſs go on. Therefore, before he leaves ſchool, I will look out to find a farm for him.

As ſhort leaſes are the bane of agriculture, if I cannot get a long or perpetual leaſe, I will make a purchaſe, though only of a few acres, whereon to build, and take the longeſt leaſe I can get of ſome adjoining lands; the nearer the ſea, or ſome navigable river, the better, on account of ſea-manure being eaſily brought to the farm, and its product carried from it.

[*To be continued.*]

For the WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

POSTSCRIPT *to* FREE THOUGHTS *on the* American *Conteſt.* [Vol. xxxiii. P. 263.]

I HAVE read, with ſome degree of attention, the pamphlet intitled *Common Senſe*—A pamphlet which might be intirely ſufficient to open the eyes of Great Britain, as to the real deſigns of the leaders of the American junto. It ought even to open the eyes of the coloniſts themſelves, had they the ſmalleſt ſhare of cool moderation left.

This pamphlet is evidently written by a man ill at eaſe in his own mind; one who has gone too far to hope that any good will accrue to himſelf from a reconciliation between Great Britain and the colonies; one who has no gleam of hope but from a ſeparation, and therefore he ſtrains every nerve to perſuade his countrymen to go forward, and ſticks at no

assertions, however bold, where they can serve his turn. "Our present force is sufficient to repel the force of all the world (*a*). Were the number of inhabitants in America increased, had they a greater number of sea-port towns, and consequently more seamen, things would be worse than at present (*b*). A ship may be as well navigated with nine-tenths of its navigators, landmen, and only one-tenth seamen, as if the whole had been bred to naval affairs (*c*). "In almost every article of defence we abound. Hemp flourishes even to rankness." *Why then do they need the premiums from Great Britain to induce them to rear it?* "Our iron is superior to that of other countries." *Is it not well known, that American iron is so very brittle, that notwithstanding all the efforts of Britain, she has never been able to get it to an equality with Russian, far less with Swedish iron.* "Our small arms equal to any in the world." *This follows well after the other. It is well known, that brittle iron never can make tolerable small arms.* "Cannon we can cast at pleasure." *This is perhaps the only true article in the account, but it is much sooner said than done.* "Salt-petre and gun-powder we are every day producing." *This has been asserted by an American governor already, but is well known to be a falsehood; America never produced as much salt-petre as would serve to manufacture powder for one field-day of the continental, or even British army; as a proof of which they offer almost* 200 per cent. *advance on the price of the article gun-powder to those who will import it to them.* "Our knowledge is hourly improving. Revolution is our inherent character, and courage hath never yet forsaken us." *Where was it when the great Washington, and his brave provincials, scampered off, and left poor Gage and his dastardly British troops to bring off the body of Braddock? What became of it in the late precipitate retreat before a handful of British troops in Canada?* "Wherefore, what is it we want? Why is it that we hesitate? From Britain we can expect nothing but ruin (*d*)." *Such is the language, such are the assertions of this man of Common Sense.*

It has been a master-stroke in the politics of all leaders of sedition, to prevail with their party to commit some daring act of barbarity, so as to deprive them of all hopes of obtaining a pardon from those they have offended. These leaders of America have endeavoured to inflame the multitude to do that; but the moderation of Britain has almost put it out of their power. Although our gracious sovereign has acted with a degree of moderation in the present case that can scarce be parallelled, yet the trumpeter of sedition represents him as the vilest miscreant that ever appeared on the face of the earth: "And as he (that is the king of Britain,) hath shewed himself *such an inveterate enemy to liberty, and discovered such a thirst of arbitrary power*, is he, or is he not, a proper man to say to these colonies, You shall make no laws but what I please (*e*)?"—The king's speech at the opening of the last session of parliament, which must yet be fresh in the memory of every one of my readers, is stigmatized in the following terms: "The king's speech, as being a piece of *finished villainy*, deserved, and still deserves a general execration both by the congress and people (*f*)."—And again, "The speech, if it may be called one, is nothing better than a wilful audacious libel against the truth, the common good, and the existence of mankind, and is a formal and pompous method of offering up human sacrifices to the pride of tyrants. But this general massacre of mankind, is one of the privileges, and the certain consequences of kings (*g*)." "*Brutality and tyranny* appear on the face of it (the king's speech). It leaves us at no loss; and every line convinces, even in the moment of reading, *that he who hunts the woods for prey, the naked and untutored Indian, is less a savage than the king of Britain* (*h*)."

I ask any man, endued with the least portion of common sense, what reasonable proposition can be expected to come from a mind so distempered as must be that of the man who can bring himself to write in this strain? Yet such are the moderate, mild, and rational leaders of that splenetic band who sway the American continent at present.

After having roused the multitude to madness by such seditious harangues as these, to commit the most daring outrages on those who were disposed to remain peaceable subjects of government, and instigated them to a rebellion, that must of necessity be quelled by force of

(*a*) p. 58. (*b*) p. 59. (*c*) p. 63. (*d*) p. 67. (*e*) p. 46. (*f*) p. 76. (*g*) p. 77. (*h*) p. 77.

arms, he attributes all the diſtreſſes that have enſued to Great Britain, from whence he infers, that deadly hate muſt, and ought to be the perpetual feelings of America towards her.

Speaking to thoſe who have ſtill a deſire to have matters accommodated with Britain, he ſays, "But, if you ſay you can ſtill paſs the violations over, then I aſk, Hath your houſe been burnt? Hath your property been deſtroyed before your face? Are your wife and children deſtitute of a bed to lie on, or bread to live on? Have you loſt a parent or a child by their hands, and yourſelf the ruined and wretched ſurviver? If you have not, then are you not a judge of thoſe who have: but if you have, and can ſtill ſhake hands with the murderers, then are you unworthy the name of huſband, father, friend, or lover; and, whatever may be your rank or title in life, you have the heart of a coward, and the ſpirit of a ſycophant (*i*)."

Thoſe who are at a loſs for argument, uſually endeavour to pervert the judgment, by inflaming the paſſions, and the authors of all the calamities in America do well to divert the attention of their countrymen from *themſelves* to Great Britain. They have raiſed a combuſtion, hoping that, in the general confuſion, ſome good may reſult to themſelves: They cannot but foreſee, that if their countrymen ſhould once become ſenſible of the real authors of theſe diſtreſſes, they would certainly be undone. It is therefore wiſe *in them*, it is abſolutely neceſſary, that they ſhould divert their attention to another object. Is it not a common thing for a thief, when hard beſet, to bawl out, *Hold the thief!* and thus make himſelf be loſt ſight of, while the attention of others are diverted to a different object? On this account the writer of this pamphlet dwells much on this topic, and frequently returns to it: "Thouſands," ſays he, "are already ruined by *Britiſh barbarity*; thouſands more will probably ſuffer the ſame fate," (witneſs the inhabitants of Norfolk in Virginia, whoſe houſes were burnt by the rebels.) "Thoſe men have other feelings than we who have nothing ſuffered. All they now poſſeſs is liberty; what they before enjoyed is ſacrificed to its ſervice, and having nothing more to loſe, they diſdain ſubmiſſion (*k*)." "Ye that tell us of harmony and reconciliation, can ye reſtore to us the time that is paſt? Can you give to proſtitution its former innocence? Neither can ye reconcile Britain and America. The laſt cord is now broken; the people of England are preſenting addreſſes againſt us. Theſe are injuries which Nature cannot forgive; ſhe would ceaſe to be Nature if ſhe did. As well can the lover forgive the raviſher of his miſtreſs, as the continent forgive the *murders* of Britain (*l*)." "The rubicon is paſſed (*m*)."

In this manner would the man whoſe guilty mind tells him that he has no room to hope for pardon, perſuade others to become as deſperate as himſelf, and plunge deeper and deeper ſtill into that guilty ſcene in which they are now involved. His own deſperate ſituation moſt frequently recurs to his mind. "It is eaſy," ſays he, "getting into holes and talking of reconciliation; but do ſuch men put themſelves in the place of the ſufferer, *whoſe all is already gone* (*n*)." Aye! here the ſhoe pinches, indeed! Such a ſufferer has nothing to hope for from a reconciliation, and therefore it is not ſurpriſing if he ſhould bawl out againſt it as loud as he can; but is it prudent in thoſe who have nothing to loſe to venture their all for his ſervice?

In the whole of this pamphlet, I find but one good reaſon advanced for the Americans perſevering in their preſent plan of a total ſeparation from Great Britain, which is, that, by robbing the king of the unoccupied lands of the back ſettlements, and appropriating to themſelves the quit-rents ariſing from theſe, they will be enabled to pay their debts, and maintain the expence of their civil government. He recurs to this in various parts of his eſſay.—"Another reaſon," ſays he, "why the preſent time is preferable to all others, is, that the fewer our numbers are, the more land there is yet unoccupied, which, inſtead of being laviſhed by the king on his worthleſs dependants, may be applied, not only to the diſcharge of the preſent debt, but to the conſtant ſupport of government (*o*)."—"It is by the ſale of thoſe lands that the debt may be ſunk without burden to any: and the quit-rent reſerved thereon will always leſſen, and in time will wholly ſupport the yearly expence of government. It mat-

(*i*) p. 41. (*k*) p. 42. (*l*) p. 57. (*m*) p. 86. (*n*) p. 85. (*o*) p. 67.

ters not how long the debt is in paying, ſo as that the lands, when ſold, be applied to the diſcharge of it; and for the execution of which the congreſs for the time being will be the continental truſtees (p)."

Such are the arguments, I doubt not, that are employed by too many of the inhabitants of Britain, who find themſelves unable to live as they wiſh upon their own property, and therefore reſolve to appropriate to themſelves the property of another—But theſe arguments will be found to avail them little in a court of juſtice. It may be *common ſenſe* in the people of America to endeavour to rob Britain of her property—but it would ſurely indicate a great want of common ſenſe in the people of this country, ſhould they approve of her deſign of deliberate robbery. TIMOLEON.

Some PASSAGES *of the* LIFE *and* DEATH *of the Right Hon.* JOHN *Earl of* ROCHESTER. *Written by his own Direction on his Death-bed, by* GILBERT BURNET, D. D. [P. 107.]

WITH all theſe diſcourſes he was not equally ſatisfied: He ſeemed convinced that the impreſſions of God being much in men's minds, would be a powerful means to reform the world, and did not ſeem determined againſt Providence; but for the next ſtate, he thought it more likely that the ſoul began anew, and that her ſenſe of what ſhe had done in this body, lying in the figures that are made in the brain, as ſoon as ſhe diſlodged, all theſe periſhed, and that the ſoul went into ſome other ſtate to begin a new courſe.

But I ſaid on this head, that this was at beſt a conjecture raiſed in him by his fancy; for he could give no reaſon to prove it true: nor was all the remembrance our ſouls had of paſt things ſeated in ſome material figures lodged in the brain, though it could not be denied but a great deal of it lay in the brain: That we have many abſtracted notions and ideas of immaterial things which depend not on bodily figures. Some ſins, ſuch as falſehood and ill-nature, were ſeated in the mind, as luſt and appetite were in the body; and, as the whole body was the receptacle of the luſt, and the eyes and ears were the organs of ſeeing and hearing, ſo was the brain the ſeat of memory; yet the power and faculty of memory, as well as of ſeeing and hearing, lay in the mind, and ſo it was no inconceivable thing that either the ſoul by its own ſtrength, or by the means of ſome ſubtiler organs, which might be fitted for it in another ſtate, ſhould ſtill remember as well as think: But indeed we know ſo little of the nature of our ſouls, that it is a vain thing for us to raiſe an hypotheſis out of the conjectures we have about it, or to reject one becauſe of ſome difficulties that occur to us, ſince it is as hard to underſtand how we remember things now as how we ſhall do it in another ſtate; only we are ſure we do it now, and ſo we ſhall be then when we do it.

When I preſſed him with the ſecret joys that a good man felt, particularly as he drew near death, and the horrors of ill men, eſpecially at that time, he was willing to aſcribe it to the impreſſions they had from their education; but he often confeſſed, that whether the buſineſs of religion was true or not, he thought thoſe who had the perſuaſions of it, and lived ſo that they had quiet in their conſciences, and believed God governed the world, and acquieſced in his providence, and had the hope of an endleſs bleſſedneſs in another ſtate, the happieſt men in the world; and ſaid he would give all he was maſter of to be under thoſe perſuaſions, and to have the ſupports and joys that muſt needs flow from them.

I told him the main root of all corruptions in men's principles was their ill life, which, as it darkened their minds, and diſabled them from diſcerning better things, ſo it made it neceſſary for them to ſeek out ſuch opinions as might give them eaſe from thoſe clamours that would otherwiſe have been raiſed within them. He did not deny but that, after the doing of ſome things, he felt great and ſevere challenges within himſelf; but he ſaid he felt not theſe after ſome others which I would perhaps call far greater ſins than thoſe that affected him more ſenſibly. This, I ſaid, might flow from the diſorders he had caſt himſelf into, which had corrupted his judgment, and vitiated his taſte of things; and, by his long continuance in, and frequent repeating of ſome immoralities, he had made them ſo familiar to him, that they were become as it were natural; and

(p) p. 82.

then it was no wonder if he had not ſo exact a ſenſe of what was good or evil, as a feveriſh man cannot judge of taſtes.

He did acknowledge the whole ſyſtem of religion, if believed, was a greater foundation of quiet than any other thing whatſoever; for all the quiet he had in his mind was, that he could not think ſo good a being as the Deity would make him miſerable. I aſked, if when, by the ill courſe of his life, he had brought ſo many diſeaſes on his body, he could blame God for it, or expect that he ſhould deliver him from them by a miracle. He confeſſed there was no reaſon for that. I then urged, that if ſin ſhould caſt the mind, by a natural effect, into endleſs horrors and agonies, which, being ſeated in a Being not ſubject to death, muſt laſt for ever, unleſs ſome miraculous power interpoſed, could he accuſe God for that which was the effect of his own choice and ill life.

He ſaid they were happy that believed, for it was not in every man's power: And upon this we diſcourſed long about revealed religion. He ſaid he did not underſtand that buſineſs of inſpiration. He believed the penmen of the ſcriptures had heats and honeſty, and ſo writ; but could not comprehend how God ſhould reveal his ſecrets to mankind. Why was not man made a creature more diſpoſed for religion, and better illuminated? He could not comprehend how there ſhould be any corruption in the nature of man, or a lapſe derived from Adam. God's communicating his mind to one man was the putting it in his power to cheat the world. For prophecies and miracles, the world had been always full of ſtrange ſtories; for the boldneſs and cunning of contrivers meeting with the ſimplicity and credulity of the people, things were eaſily received, and, being once received, paſſed down without contradiction. The incoherencies of ſtile in the ſcriptures, the odd tranſitions, the ſeeming contradictions, chiefly about the order of time, the cruelties enjoined the Iſraelites in deſtroying the Canaanites, circumciſion, and many other rites of the Jewiſh worſhip, ſeemed to him unſuitable to the divine nature: and the firſt three chapters of Geneſis, he thought, could not be true, unleſs they were parables. This was the ſubſtance of what he objected to revealed religion in general, and to the Old Teſtament in particular.

I anſwered to all this, that believing a thing upon the teſtimony of another, in other matters where there was no reaſon to ſuſpect the teſtimony, chiefly where it was confirmed by other circumſtances, was not only a reaſonable thing, but it was the hinge on which all the government and juſtice in the world depended; ſince all courts of juſtice proceed upon the evidence given by witneſſes; for the uſe of writings is but a thing more lately brought into the world: ſo then, if the credibility of the thing, the innocence and diſintereſtneſs of the witneſſes, the number of them, and the moſt public confirmations that could poſſibly be given, do concur to perſuade us of any matter of fact, it is a vain thing to ſay, becauſe it is poſſible for ſo many men to agree in a lie, that therefore theſe have done it. In all other things a man gives his aſſent when the credibility is ſtrong on the one ſide, and there appears nothing on the other ſide to balance it: ſo ſuch numbers agreeing in their teſtimony to theſe miracles, for inſtance of our Saviour's calling Lazarus out of the grave the fourth day after he was buried, and his own riſing again after he was certainly dead; if there had been ever ſo many impoſtors in the world, no man can with any reaſonable colour pretend this was one. We find, both by the Jewiſh and Roman writers who lived at that time, that our Saviour was crucified, and that all his diſciples and followers believed certainly that he roſe again. They believed this upon the teſtimony of the Apoſtles, and of many hundreds who ſaw it, and died confirming it. They went about to perſuade the world of it with great zeal, though they knew they were to get nothing by it but reproach and ſufferings; and by many wonders which they wrought they confirmed their teſtimony. Now, to avoid all this, by ſaying it is poſſible this might be a contrivance, and to give no preſumption to make it ſo much as probable that it was ſo, is in plain Engliſh to ſay, "We are reſolved, let the 'evidence be what it will, we will not 'believe it."

He ſaid, if a man ſays he cannot believe, what help is there? for he was not maſter of his own belief, and believing was at beſt only a probable opinion. To this I anſwered, that, if a man will let a wanton conceit poſſeſs his fancy againſt theſe things, and never conſider

the evidence for religion on the other hand, but reject it upon a ſlight view of it, he ought not to ſay he cannot, but he will not believe; and, while a man lives an ill courſe of life, he is not fitly qualified to examine the matter aright. Let him grow calm and virtuous, and upon due application examine things fairly, and then let him pronounce, according to his conſcience, if, to take it at its loweſt, the reaſons on the one hand are not much ſtronger than they are on the other: for I found he was ſo poſſeſſed with the general conceit that a mixture of knaves and fools had made all extraordinary things be eaſily believed, that it carried him away to determine the matter without ſo much as looking on the hiſtorical evidence for the truth of Chriſtianity, which he had not inquired into, but had bent all his wit and ſtudy to the ſupport of the other ſide. As for that, that believing is at beſt but an opinion; if the evidence be but probable, it is ſo; but if it be ſuch that it cannot be queſtioned, it grows as certain as knowledge; for we are no leſs certain that there is a great town called *Conſtantinople*, the ſeat of the Ottoman empire, than that there is another called *London*. We as little doubt that queen Elizabeth once reigned, as that king Charles now reigns in England; ſo that believing may be as certain, and as little ſubject to doubting, as ſeeing or knowing.

[*To be continued.*]

The PARLIAMENTARY REGISTER.

[P. 107.]

No. VIII.

CHARLES FOX, *Eſq;*

HAVING had the curioſity to inſpect this young gentleman's pariſh regiſter, we find, that he was born in the month of March, 1749; and, conſequently, that he united in his own perſon talents and circumſtances unparalelled in the annals of parliament, or the ſtrange viciſſitudes of ſtate intrigue; for he was appointed a lord of the admiralty; reſigned in diſguſt; was a ſecond time appointed, and was afterwards removed to the treaſury board, whence he was diſmiſſed ſome weeks before he compleated the 25th year of his age, namely, on the 17th or 18th of February 1774. Two other circumſtances ſtrongly mark his political career: Before he was twenty-four years old, he was by much the moſt able ſupport the miniſter had in the courſe of a whole ſeſſion, and, within a year after, one of his moſt powerful and dangerous antagoniſts.

The political hiſtory of this extraordinary young orator furniſhes very few things worthy of notice. His conduct, as long as he remained in office, was that of the moſt violent and unreſerved courtier. He not only diſcharged his duty as a *mere* placeman, called upon by his ſituation to defend the meaſures of adminiſtration, to cover their blunders, to urge their propriety, to predict the ſalutary conſequences that muſt flow from them, and the whole ſcience of augmenting and diminiſhing at pleaſure; but he caught the deciſive *tone* of a violent partizan, in a kind of ſtate of war and open hoſtility againſt every man who dared to differ from him, or queſtion the miniſterial *infallibility* of his leader * and financial creator.

His parliamentary operations in this line were chiefly directed againſt Mr Burke, and a few other leaders in oppoſition. This part of his taſk he performed with remarkable punctuality and alacrity, and with no ſmall degree of ſucceſs. Some detached part of Mr Burke's ſpeech, not perhaps at all eſſential to the main ſubject of debate, was *miſquoted* or *miſrepreſented*, the fallacy or abſurdity of its pretended contents were pointed out, and animadverted upon; and the whole thrown into a ridiculous light; a laugh was created in every miniſterial corner of the houſe; the treaſury-bench was ſet in a roar, and Charles ſmacked the clerk's table with his hand, and moulded his feathered hat into ten thouſand different forms. Burke's fine ſpeeches were thus cut up; Charles was applauded; and every *tool* of adminiſtration, from his lordſhip down to R——n, E——n, and Brummel *at the door* or in the gallery, loudly proclaimed victory.—This office is now occupied by his particular friend †.

There were two other gentlemen, on whom he beſtowed a great deal of attention in the ſame way. They at length perceived their folly, and the juſtice of

* *He was appointed a commiſſioner of the treaſury, through the intereſt of lord North, in the room of Charles Jenkinſon.*

† *Mr Thurlöe, attorney-general.*

his ridicule ſo much, that ‡ one of them changed places with him, and the ‖ other accepted of a white wand, as a public teſtimony of his *converſion*.

In the midſt of victory, flushed with ſucceſs, and running at the rate of fourteen knots an hour, with every ſail ſet, and in the warmeſt expectation of at leaſt procuring in a ſhort time the chancellorſhip of the exchequer, his friend and patron § having frequently aſſured him, in confidence, that he wiſhed to divide the fame, profits, and labour of conducting public affairs with him; our hero, like a certain well-known ambitious young man of Ovidian memory, was thrown from the box, as *he* ſays, by the baſeneſs and treachery of the firſt coachman.

To drop all allegory, terrene or marine, the following trifling matter was what produced the ſad cataſtrophe! The ſpeaker, a few days before, having put the queſtion on a petition againſt an incloſing bill, a letter, ſaid to have been written by the celebrated Parſon Horne, appeared in three or four days after in a morning paper. The letter was conceived in very coarſe terms, and betrayed an ignorance of both the uſages of the houſe, of the truth of the tranſaction, and indeed of every rule of decency.—A complaint was accordingly made by a member, of the unjuſtifiable liberties that had been taken with Sir Fletcher Norton, of the injuſtice of the charge, and the neceſſity there was for bringing the author or authors to the moſt exemplary puniſhment. The printer was ordered to attend: he complied with the order, and gave up his author, the parſon. What happened on that occaſion is recent in every body's memory; it is now enough to obſerve, that the charge not being brought home to Mr Horne, the diſpleaſure of the houſe fell on the printer.

Mr Fox, either miſunderſtanding the previous inſtructions given him that morning by the miniſter, or the miniſter forgetting them, or chuſing to forget them; the former inſiſted, that the printer ſhould be committed to Newgate, while the latter moved, that he ſhould be committed to the Gate-houſe. At length the queſtion on col. Herbert's original motion being put, for "committing the printer to the cuſtody of the ſerjeant at arms," it was carried by a great majority.

This unexpected deſertion of the miniſter and his faithful coadjutor bore, it is true, a very aukward appearance. Charles and his patron recriminated on each other: Charles ſaid, he would have carried his concerted motion, if the miniſter had not deſerted and betrayed him; the latter as ſtrenuouſly inſiſted, that he muſt have prevailed if the other had not diſtracted and divided the friends of adminiſtration. Be that as it may, it was neceſſary that the blame ſhould be laid ſomewhere: it was all laid on our hero's ſhoulders in the following conciſe, but comprehenſive manner:—The next day but one, Charles and his noble patron being ſitting on the treaſury-bench, after paſſing part of the preceding day together at the treaſury-board, Pearſon *, or his ſubſtitute, threw a ſign, which Charles underſtanding, went to the door, where he received a billet, couched in the following laconic terms:—"His majeſty has thought proper to order a new commiſſion of the treaſury to be made out, in which I do not perceive your name. NORTH."

From that very hour to the preſent he has been as violent in oppoſition as he was before for the court. Luckily, however, for him, in point of conſiſtency, during the buſy ſcene he acted in, and the very conſpicuous part he took, the affairs of America never came under a formal or ſolemn diſcuſſion. In about a fortnight or three weeks after he commenced patriot, col. Jennings, as has been before obſerved, as it were compelled the miniſter to take the ſtate of that country into conſideration: the firſt decided part Charles took therefore in that buſineſs was againſt adminiſtration. The ground he has taken is pretty nearly the ſame as lord Cambden's in the other houſe, with this additional circumſtance, that, beſides arraigning the injuſtice, cruelty, impolicy, and impracticability of ſucceeding in an attempt to ſubdue America, or compel its inhabitants to conſent to the terms of unconditional ſubmiſſion, he has from time to time alternately foretold and demonſtrated the inefficacy, folly, and madneſs of the ſeveral meaſures, as they were propoſed

‡ *Mr Cornwall.*
‖ *Sir William Meredith.*
§ *Lord North.*

* *The door-keeper of the houſe of commons.*

in parliament, and the ignorance, temerity, and dangerous deſigns of their authors, ſupporters, and defenders.

Mr Fox is certainly one of the firſt native orators in the houſe; but he is extremely negligent in his manner and exterior carriage. His diſcourſes are frequently finiſhed pieces of argumentation, abounding in the beſt pointed obſervations, and the juſteſt concluſions, and ſupported by a weight of reaſoning, a manly boldneſs and energy of expreſſion almoſt unequalled, and never, within the courſe of our knowledge or experience, ſurpaſſed. His extemporary ſpeeches on facts, arguments and details, not immediately ariſing nor connected with the proper ſubject of debate, are truly admirable. They bear every appearance of the moſt ſtudied and laboured harangues in every thing but the delivery, which, however rapid, is not able to keep pace with the crouded conceptions of the ſpeaker. His ideas are inexhauſtible, and are ever ready at his command; but even if this were all, we could account for it eaſily; but we muſt liſten in ſilent aſtoniſhment when we obſerve him riſe upon ſome ſudden, unexpected incident, and diſcuſs, perhaps, a deep intricate ſubject for an hour, with an ability, perſpicuity and preciſion that would induce ſuch as are unacquainted with his habits, or are ignorant of his talents, to be perſuaded that he came to the houſe previouſly prepared and informed, in order to deliver his opinion. With theſe almoſt unrivalled gifts, which nature has beſtowed, Mr Fox is far from being a pleaſing or perſuaſive orator. His utterance is rapid, diſagreeable, and ſometimes ſcarcely intelligible. He ſpeaks always as if he was in a paſſion; and the arguments of paſſionate people do not come well recommended. He ſometimes deſcends to perſonal attacks, to anecdotes and puerilities, much beneath the dignity of a Britiſh ſenator, particularly a man of his conſummate talents. Another circumſtance, which takes away from the weight and conſequence of what he urges in debate, is, that his patriotiſm is preſumed to have originated in pique, and to have taken a taint of perſonal rancour and perſonal perſecution towards the noble lord at the head of the treaſury, on account of what he deemed a mixture of treachery and mean revenge, in procuring his diſmiſſion from the treaſury-board.—On the whole, with all Mr Fox's ſuperior advantages, we do not eſteem him as rendering his party any very eſſential ſervice, though we muſt allow he would be a valuable acquiſition to his old friends, who would probably receive him like the prodigal ſon, were it not for the powerful obſtacle which ſtands in the way, the irreconcileable perſonal difference which ſubſiſts between him and the miniſter.

POETRY.

To MARIA, *on her* BIRTH-DAY.

IN faireſt colours let this morn appear,
And like thyſelf, the ſky ſerene and clear;
O may the ſun diffuſe th' enliv'ning ray,
And ſhine propitious on thy natal day!
Altho' the warblers in the leafy grove
Sit mute, unmindful of the tales of love;
Altho' no flow'rs bedeck the *brumal* ſcene,
Nor mead ow painted with the vernal green;
Yet may the ſeaſon and the ſcene impart
Some uſeful leſſon to inſtruct the heart.
The tranſient light and Nature's ſad decay
Remind us of a debt that All muſt pay:
All muſt endure a winter in the tomb,
And like the graſs ſhall wither Beauty's bloom.
Even thou, poſſeſt of every charm to pleaſe,
Adorn'd with natural, unaffected eaſe;
Whoſe wit ſuperior and whoſe ſenſe refin'd,
Declare the greatneſs of your heav'n-born mind,
That ſoars above the giddy and the vain,
And nobly dares their fopperies diſdain;—
Thou! Thou muſt fade—thy charms reſign to age,
And yield ſubmiſſive to its potent rage!
But, ah! late be the time, and diſtant be the date!
May num'rous years obſtruct the hand of Fate!
Long may'ſt thou live felicity to ſhare,
And ſtill experience Heav'n's peculiar care!
But if Adverſity beſets thee round,
With patience bear the ſalutary wound.
Know, that Affliction's dire, vindictive rod
Is often us'd to draw the ſoul to God.
Train'd up in virtue, ſtill to heav'n aſpire,
Whence firſt proceeded the etherial fire;
The ſoul's pure eſſence, which confin'd from home,
Reſts and expatiates on the life to come;
To this one view let all your actions tend,
Then Peace ſhall be your lot, and Happineſs your end.

W. M.

To Sir JOSHUA REYNOLDS *and Co. By Dr* BERNARD, *Dean of* Derry.

I LATELY thought no man alive
Cou'd e'er improve paſt forty-five,
And ventur'd to aſſert it;
The obſervation was not new,
But ſeem'd to me ſo juſt and true,
That none cou'd controvert it.

"No, Sir," ſays Johnſon, "'tis not ſo,
That's your miſtake, and I can ſhow
An inſtance if you doubt it;
You, Sir, who are near forty-eight,
May much improve, 'tis not too late,
I wiſh you'd ſet about it."

Encourag'd thus to mend my faults,
I turn'd his counſel in my thoughts,
Which way I ſhou'd apply it;
Learning and wit ſeem'd paſt my reach,
For who can learn when none will teach?
And wit—I cou'd not buy it.

Then come, my friends, and try your ſkill,
You can inform me if you will,
(My books are at a diſtance),
With you I'll live, and learn, and then,
Inſtead of books, I ſhall read men;
So lend me your aſſiſtance.

Dear * *Knight of Plympton*, teach me how
To ſuffer with unruffled brow,
And ſmile ſerene like thine;
The jeſt uncouth, or truth ſevere,
To ſuch I'll turn my deafeſt ear,
And calmly drink my wine.

Thou ſay'ſt, not only ſkill is gain'd,
But genius too may be attain'd,
By ſtudious imitation;
Thy temper mild, thy genius fine,
I'll copy till I make thee mine,
By conſtant application.

Thy art of pleaſing, teach me, Garrick!
Thou †, who reverenc'ſt od's Pindaric,
A ſecond time read o'er;
Oh! cou'd we read thee backwards too,
Laſt thirty years thou ſhould'ſt review,
And charm us thirty more.

If I have thoughts, and can't expreſs 'em,
Gibbons ſhall teach me how to dreſs 'em
In terms ſelect and terſe;
Jones teach me modeſty and Greek,
Smith how to think, Burke how to ſpeak,
And Beauclerc to converſe.

Let Johnſon teach me how to place,
In faireſt light, each borrow'd grace;
From him I'll learn to write;
Copy his clear familiar ſtile,
And from the roughneſs of his file,
Grow like *himſelf*—*polite*.

* *Sir Joſhua Reynolds.*

† *Garrick being aſked to read Cumberland's Odes, laughed immoderately, and affirmed that ſuch ſtuff might as well be read backwards as forwards, and the witty Roſcius accordingly read them in that manner, and, wonderful to relate! produced the ſame good ſenſe and poetry as the ſentimental author ever had genius to write.*

Preſented to a LADY *with a* CHAPLET *of* FLOWERS.

CULL'D by my hands, this blooming garland view,
Emblem of beauty, and a type of you.
Here half-veil'd roſes, modeſt lilies join,
Here blend their beauties and their ſweets combine:
Narciſſus here unfolds his purple wings,
Here the ſoft violet ſofteſt fragrance flings;
In ſtrongeſt tints the varied tulip glows,
And arching woodbines here their ſcents diſcloſe;
Whilſt ſolemn verdure, and the myrtle's bloom,
Adds to ſurrounding flow'rs a pleaſing gloom.
View theſe, *Louiſa!* for the giver's ſake,
And from this wreath th' inſtructive leſſon take:
For as theſe flow'rs, with radiant beauty bright,
Soon cloſe their leaves, and ſink to endleſs night;
So muſt thy youth, and ſo thy beauty fade,
When pale Diſeaſe and tott'ring Age invade:
The roſe will leave thy cheek, the fire thine eye,
Thy beauties vaniſh, and thy graces fly.

PHILO-MUSARUM.

On the late VICTORY *in* America.

MUCH applauſe and much honour to brave gen'ral Howe,
For his plan, and ſucceſsful attack we allow;
But inform us, good Sir! as a favour we aſk it,
How came lieutenant Ragg * to be left in the baſket?
You may number the ſlain, or deſcribe the retreat,
Their *captive* they value, and deſpiſe the feat;
For theſe indigent Yankies will merrily caper,
And coin this poor *Ragg* into *currency paper*.

W. O.

ANSWER *to the above. By a* LADY.

WHILST our joys are yet freſh, and our *cannon* declare
Our glorious ſucceſs in th' American war,
At the loſs of a *Ragg* why will O—— repine,
And murm'ring mix water with victory's wine?
Blame not, my dear Sir! noble Howe, England's darling, (*Sterling* †.
If *they* pickt up our *Ragg*, he took payment in
A Yanky commodity, all muſt allow,
Rare and hard to be come at!—ſo huzza to Howe!

* *Lieut. Ragg taken by miſtaking the enemy for the Heſſians.*

† *Lord Stirling taken by the king's troops.*

THE REVIEW.

An ORATION *delivered at the State-house in* Philadelphia, *to a very numerous Audience, on Thurſday the 1ſt of Auguſt*, 1776: *By* SAMUEL ADAMS, *Member of the General Congreſs of* America. 8vo. 1s.

THIS pamphlet was originally publiſhed in Philadelphia, and is now reprinted at London. Mr Adams begins his ſpeech with an apology for himſelf in theſe words:—"I have not the calmneſs and impartiality which the infinite importance of this occaſion demands. I will not deny the charge of my enemies, that reſentment for the accumulated injuries of our country, and an ardour for her glory riſing to enthuſiaſm, may deprive me of that accuracy of judgment and expreſſion, which men of cooler paſſions may poſſeſs. Let me beſeech you then to hear me with caution, to examine without prejudice, and to correct the miſtakes into which I may be hurried by my zeal."

After addreſſing the paſſions of his audience in a warm deſcant on the ſtate of America, and aſſerting, that to unite the ſupremacy of Great Britain and the liberty of America is utterly impoſſible, he proceeds thus:

"THIS day we are called upon to give a glorious example of what the wiſeſt and beſt of men were rejoiced to view only in ſpeculation. This day preſents the world with the moſt auguſt ſpectacle that its annals ever unfolded. Millions of freemen deliberately and voluntarily forming themſelves into a ſociety for their common defence and common happineſs.—Immortal ſpirits of Hampden, Locke, and Sidney! will it not add to your benevolent joys to behold your poſterity riſing to the dignity of men, and evincing to the world the reality and expediency of your ſyſtems, and in the actual enjoyment of that equal liberty which you were happy, when on earth, in delineating and recommending to mankind!

"Other nations have received their laws from conquerors—ſome are indebted for a conſtitution to the ſufferings of their anceſtors through revolving centuries: the people of this country alone have formally and deliberately choſen a government for themſelves, and, with open and uninfluenced conſent, bound themſelves into a ſocial compact.

"Here no man proclaims his birth or wealth as a title to honourable diſtinction, or to ſanctify ignorance and vice with the name of hereditary authority. He who has moſt zeal and ability to promote public felicity—let him be the ſervant of the public.—This is the only line of diſtinction drawn by nature.—Leave the bird of night to the obſcurity for which nature intended him, and expect only from the eagle to bruſh the clouds with his wings, and look boldly in the face of the ſun.

"Some who would perſuade us that they have tender feelings for future generations, while they are inſenſible to the happineſs of the preſent, are perpetually foreboding a train of diſſenſions under our popular ſyſtem. Such men's reaſoning amount to this—Give up all that is valuable to Great Britain, and then you will have no inducement to quarrel among yourſelves;—or ſuffer yourſelves to be chained down by your enemies, that you may not be able to fight with your friends.

"We ſhall neither be expoſed to the neceſſary convulſions of elective monarchies, nor to the want of wiſdom, fortitude and virtue, to which hereditary ſucceſſion is liable. In your hands it will be to perpetuate a prudent, active, and juſt legiſlature, and which will never expire till you yourſelves loſe the virtues which gave it exiſtence.

"And, brethren and fellow-countrymen, if it was ever granted to mortals to trace the deſigns of Providence, and interpret its manifeſtations in favour of their cauſe, we may, with humility of ſoul, cry out, "Not unto us, not unto 'us, but to thy name be the praiſe." The confuſion of the devices among our enemies, and the rage of the elements againſt them, have done almoſt as much towards our ſucceſs as either our councils or our arms.

"The time at which this attempt on our liberties was made, when we were ripened into maturity, had acquired a knowledge of war, and were free from the incurſions of enemies in this country—the gradual advances of our oppreſſors enabling us to prepare for our defence—the unuſual fertility of our

lands and clemency of the ſeaſons—the ſucceſs which at firſt attended our feeble arms, producing unanimity among our friends, and reducing our internal foes to acquieſcence—theſe are all ſtrong and palpable marks and aſſurances, that Providence is yet gracious unto Zion—that it will turn away the captivity of Jacob.

"Our glorious reformers, when they broke through the fetters of ſuperſtition, effected more than could be expected from an age ſo darkened: but they left much to be done by their poſterity. They lopped off indeed ſome of the branches of Popery; but they left the root and ſtock when they left us under the domination of human ſyſtems and decitions, uſurping the infallibility which can be attributed to revelation alone.—They dethroned one uſurper, only to raiſe up another—They refuſed allegiance to the Pope, only to place the civil magiſtrate in the throne of Chriſt, veſted with authority to enact laws, and inflict penalties in his kingdom: And if we now caſt our eyes over the nations of the earth, we ſhall find that, inſtead of poſſeſſing the pure religion of the goſpel, they may be divided either into infidels, who deny the truth; or politicians, who make religion a ſtalking horſe for their ambition; or profeſſors, who walk in the trammels of orthodoxy, and are more attentive to traditions and ordinances of men, than to the oracles of truth.

"The civil magiſtrate has every where contaminated religion, by making it an engine of policy; and freedom of thought and the right of private judgment, in matters of conſcience, driven from every other corner of the earth, direct their courſe to this happy country as their laſt aſylum. Let us cheriſh the noble gueſts, and ſhelter them under the wings of an univerſal toleration.—Be this the ſeat of unbounded religious freedom:—She will bring with her in her train induſtry, wiſdom, and commerce. She thrives moſt when left to ſhoot forth in her natural luxuriance, and aſks from human policy only not to be checked in her growth by artificial encouragements.

"Thus, by the beneficence of Providence, we ſhall behold an empire ariſing, founded on juſtice and the voluntary conſent of the people, and giving full ſcope to the exerciſe of thoſe faculties and rights which moſt ennoble our ſpecies.—Beſides the advantages of liberty and the moſt equal conſtitution, heaven has given us a country, with every variety of climate and ſoil, pouring forth in abundance whatever is neceſſary for the ſupport, comfort and ſtrength of a nation. Within our own borders we poſſeſs all the means of ſuſtenance, defence and commerce: at the ſame time theſe advantages are ſo diſtributed among the different ſtates of this continent, as if nature had in view to proclaim to us—Be united among yourſelves, and you will want nothing from the reſt of the world.

"The more northern ſtates moſt amply ſupply us with every neceſſary, and many of the luxuries of life—with iron, timber, and maſts for ſhips of commerce or of war—with flax for the manufactory of linen, and ſeed either for oil or exportation.

"So abundant are our harveſts, that almoſt every part raiſes more than double the quantity of grain requiſite for the ſupport of the inhabitants.—From Georgia and the Carolinas we have, as well for our own wants, as for the purpoſe of ſupplying the wants of other powers, indigo, rice, hemp, naval ſtores, and lumber.

"Virginia and Maryland teem with wheat, Indian corn, and tobacco. Every nation whoſe harveſt is precarious, or whoſe lands yield not thoſe commodities which we cultivate, will gladly exchange their ſuperfluities and manufactures for ours.

"We have already received many and large cargoes of cloathing, military ſtores, &c. from our commerce with foreign powers; and, in ſpite of the efforts of the boaſted navy of England, we ſhall continue to profit by this connection.

"The want of our naval ſtores has already increaſed the price of theſe articles to a great height, eſpecially in Britain: Without our lumber it will be impoſſible for thoſe haughty iſlanders to convey the products of the Weſt-Indies to their own ports—For a while they may with difficulty effect it, but without our aſſiſtance their reſources ſoon muſt fail.

"Indeed the Weſt-India iſlands appear as the neceſſary appendages to this our empire. They muſt owe their ſupport to it; and 'ere long, I doubt not, ſome of them will from neceſſity wiſh to enjoy the benefit of our protection.

"These natural advantages will enable us to remain independent of the world, or make it the interest of European powers to court our alliance and aid in protecting us against the invasions of others.

"What argument, therefore, do we want to show the equity of our conduct, or motive of interest to recommend it to our prudence? Nature points out the path, and our enemies have obliged us to pursue it.

"If there is any man so base or so weak, as to prefer a dependence on Great Britain to the dignity and happiness of living a member of a free and independent nation—let me tell him, that necessity now demands what the generous principles of patriotism should have dictated.

"We have now no other alternative than independence or the most ignominious and galling servitude. The legions of our enemies thicken on our plains.—Desolation and death mark their bloody career; whilst the mangled corses of our countrymen seem to cry out to us as a voice from heaven—"Will you permit our posterity to groan under the galling chains of our murderers?—Has our blood been expended in vain?—Is the only reward which our constancy till death has obtained for our country, that it should be sunk into a deeper and more ignominious vassalage?—Recollect who are the men that demand your submission; to whose decrees you are invited to pay obedience!—Men who, unmindful of their relation to you as brethren; of your long implicit submission to their laws; of the sacrifice which you and your forefathers made of your natural advantages for commerce to their avarice—formed a deliberate plan to wrest from you the small pittance of property which they had permitted you to acquire.—Remember that the men who wish to rule over you are they who, in pursuit of this plan of despotism, annulled the sacred contracts which had been made with your ancestors; conveyed into your cities a mercenary soldiery to compel you to submission by insult and murder—who called your patience cowardice—your piety hypocrisy."

HISTORY OF THE TIMES.

OCTOBER 17.—*to* 24.

RUSSIA.

Petersburgh, Sept. 20.

"THE government of Russia is as strenuously cultivating the arts and sciences throughout the empire, as it prosecuted the war against the Turks. The trade on the seas of Marmora, Asoph, and the Black Sea, is begun, and will be carried on with spirit, as the empress gives every encouragement to induce the merchants to traffic thereon. A canal is cutting of an amazing length, in order to facilitate the trade of the country, by rendering the transporting of the merchandize at a cheap rate. The banks of the Wolga are planting with colonies, and by the invitation which her majesty has given to artists of every kind to settle in her dominions, 'tis not to be doubted, but in another century, this extensive country, which but a hundred years ago was immersed in darkness with regard to the arts and sciences, will make as shining a figure as any in Europe, if we may judge from the progress they have already made.—There is no country in Europe that can be of so great service to England as Russia; they take all her manufactures at present, and even in their improved state must have occasion for many, as, from numberless circumstances, they will not be able to make them themselves."

SWITZERLAND.

Zurich, Sept. 19. "A person had the impiety and audacity to poison the wine in our church, the night before the last sacrament day. Four wooden beckers full were poisoned; and, upon pouring it out at the time, the wine was found to be foul in them, and not in the other ones; which made people rather afraid to drink it, though they had no suspicion of its being poisoned. Those who drank but little were seized with vomiting, and those who drank much were very sick. However, by God's goodness, none were killed, or made dangerously

ill, as the people were in general quite ſet againſt drinking it. Theſe circumſtances made it neceſſary to have the wine examined, which being done, it was found to be poiſoned; but the perſon who did it could not be found, notwithſtanding the moſt diligent ſearch was made.—Some later accounts mention, that the wretch who poiſoned the wine was taken; that his name is Wirz, and that he proves to be a grave-digger, who is ſent to priſon; and no other reaſon can be aſſigned for this ſhocking action, than that there were not burials enough to ſatisfy his avaricious and diabolical diſpoſition."

HOLLAND.

Hague, Oct. 8. "In the memorial preſented to the ſtates-general by the Britiſh ambaſſador, Sir Joſeph Yorke, on the 11th of this month, his excellency, after ſetting forth that the prohibitions made by their high mightineſſes in the placart, which is juſt expired, were very badly kept up to, as their ſubjects had publicly loaded ammunition and warlike ſtores, and ſent them to the rebels in America, &c. That he therefore requeſted, in the name of the king his maſter, that the ſtates-general would renew the placart, and take the efficacious methods to prevent their ſubjects from furniſhing the rebels, either directly or indirectly, with any thing; that their veſſels be forbid entering into any of the ports of the republic; and that if any ſhould appear to want to come into any part under their government, they might not be permitted to enter on any account whatever. This memorial being communicated to the ſtates of Holland, who renewed their deliberations this morning, we have reaſon to believe a new publication on that head will ſoon be iſſued."

SPAIN.

Madrid, Sept. 20. "Advice was received here yeſterday from Cadiz, that capt. Don Daval, a young and gallant officer, nephew to admiral Gaſton, had carried into that bay four Mooriſh cruizers of conſiderable force. It appears the above officer, in a frigate of 34 guns, in company with another Spaniſh frigate of 28 guns, fell in with, near Tetuan, four Mooriſh xebecs, when a bloody ſcene was exhibited; the Barbarians boarded the Spaniards nine times, and although ſuperior, almoſt three to one in number, were every time repulſed with great loſs. At length, after an engagement of ſix hours, the Moors were obliged to ſtrike to the Spaniſh flag. The loſs, killed and wounded, of the Barbarians, is upwards of 260; and on the ſide of the Spaniards, 38 ſeamen and 3 officers killed, and 90 officers and ſeamen wounded; amongſt the former is capt. Daval."

AFRICA.

Palma, the capital of Majorca, Sept. 3. "Forty-ſix captives, who were employed to draw ſtones from a quarry at ſome leagues diſtance from Algiers, at a place called Genova, reſolved, if poſſible, to recover their liberty, and yeſterday took advantage of the idleneſs and inattention of forty men who were to guard them, and who had laid down their arms, and were rambling about the ſhore. The captives attacked them with pick-axes and other tools, and made themſelves maſters of their arms; and having killed 33 of the 40, and 11 of the 13 ſailors who were in the boats which carried the ſtones, they obliged the reſt to jump into the ſea. Being then maſters of the boat, and armed with 12 muſkets, and powder, &c. they ſet ſail, and had the good fortune to arrive here this morning, where they are performing quarantine. Sixteen of them are Spaniards, ſeventeen French, eight Portugueſe, three Italians, one German, and one Sardinian."

WEST-INDIES.

Extract of a letter from an officer on board the Pomona ſloop of war, dated Barbadoes, Aug. 26.

"Our admiral has ordered our ſtation off the Virgin Iſles, where we have been very lucky, taking one or more prizes every week. Yeſterday we arrived here with one; ſhe was laden with cotton, ſilks, &c. and had on board beſides 20 tons of ſaltpetre; we ſaw her about four A. M. and about two P. M. were alongſide of her. We hailed her, but ſhe gave his no anſwer, but laying her topſails back, hawled up her ports, and gave us a broad-ſide, when ſhe filled her ſails, and would have ſtood from us; but we gave her a handſome peppering

before ſhe ſtruck, having raked her twice. When we went on board, the captain would hardly anſwer any queſtions put to him, but we found by the ſhip's papers that his name was Theobald Dibnal, part owner of the veſſel, which was called the Palm Tree, and conſigned to Philip Handle, merchant at Savannah, in Georgia. We loſt five men killed, and ten wounded, and the Americans ten killed, and fifteen wounded."

AMERICA.

Copy of two genuine letters from a gentleman at Montreal, to a merchant in London.

"*Dear Sir,* *Montreal, Aug.* 4.

"The Indians have come down from the moſt interior parts of the country to ſolicit being employed in this war; but the general, too brave and generous to employ ſuch an enemy but in the laſt extremity, has refuſed them; telling them, that the deſign of the war was only to bring back to a ſenſe of duty the moſt ungrateful children to an indulgent parent, and then laid before them the obligations the colonies have been under from the firſt ſettlement of the country, and the cauſes of their revolt, and that the force he had would undoubtedly accompliſh ſo juſt and humane a purpoſe, and then forbade them every act of cruelty whatever. They are an enemy, who, when let looſe, will probably make no diſtinction between thoſe who are friends of government and thoſe that are rebels; therefore we cannot but applaud ſo humane a determination; but I fear this cannot laſt long, for the rebels are committing ſuch acts of cruelty that the ſavages would bluſh at, and one in particular which has raiſed the reſentment of the army. Laſt week brigadier-general Gordon was riding alone from St John's to La Prairie, and was ſhot by a party of five, who had been lurking in the woods. The general died a few days after.

"After the rebels fled from the country, leaving their ſick and wounded in the woods, the general iſſued a proclamation, requiring the inhabitants to ſeek out thoſe miſerable objects, and to provide them with every neceſſary, that they may be ſent home to their reſpective provinces; and this was done.

"Capt. Forſter, with a company of regulars and 150 Indians, came down from the upper country early in the ſeaſon to relieve Quebec; they met a party of the rebels, engaged them, and took a large number of priſoners. Proviſions were inſufficient for ſo great an addition of numbers; the captain was obliged to put his men and the Indians on half allowance, which the Indians would not ſubmit to, and inſiſted on putting them to immediate death. Capt. Forſter, with the utmoſt intreaty (I have my account from two officers of veracity who were in the engagement) prevailed that they might be ſent to the colonies, and exchanged for as many of their priſoners; and they were ſent away, with every neceſſary for their march: I am aſhamed to ſay what returns they have made for theſe acts of benevolence; I am told, (but I cannot anſwer for the truth of this) that the priſoners ſoon joined the rebel army again; thus much we are certain of, that there has been no return of our priſoners; but the congreſs have ſent to demand capt. Forſter, and all concerned in the horrid maſſacre (as they are pleaſed to call it). I ſuppoſe their plea for this was, that the Indians had killed two men, after they had conſented they ſhould return, which was not done in cold blood, but on ſome diſpute that aroſe from their own obſtinacy.

"The priſoners which the Indians have taken have been bought by the Engliſh inhabitants and officers of the army, in order to ſave their lives."

"*Dear Sir,* *Montreal, Aug.* 18.

"In my laſt letter to —— I mentioned, that early in the ſpring capt. Forſter had defeated a party of the rebels; that on account of a ſcarcity of proviſions the Indians were reſolved to murder them; that capt. Forſter, with the utmoſt intreaty, prevailed to have the priſoners exchanged for as many of the king's troops, and four of their officers who are now in this town were retained as hoſtages. The congreſs hearing of this, and caring very little how many of their ſoldiers were taken, regarding their hoſtages as little, or perhaps relying on that humanity which the king's troops have always ſhown, reſolved not to comply with the agreement made, and have entered into ſome reſolves to inflame and farther delude the people.

"Gen. Burgoyne permitted the hoſtages to write to their friends, and I incloſe you a copy of one of their letters,

the publiſhing of which I think may anſwer a good end; beſides which, one of the hoſtages declared to me, that the intreaty of capt. Forſter ſaved him and his whole party from being murdered.

I am, Sir, Yours, &c."

Copy of a letter wrote by Ebenezer Sullivan, an hoſtage, in the hands of capt. Forſter in Canada, to his brother in New-England.

To the hon. gen. John Sullivan at Durham, colony of New Hampſhire, near Portſmouth.

Montreal, Aug. 14.

"*Dear Sir,*

"I am permitted by his excellency (which is a favour I did not expect to obtain) to inform you I am well, as are the hoſtages that are with me; I am much ſurpriſed to hear that the congreſs, inſtead of redeeming us according to the cartel, have not only refuſed to do it, but have demanded capt. Forſter to be delivered up, to anſwer his conduct in what they are pleaſed to term the maſſacre of the Cedars. I would fain flatter myſelf, that the congreſs would never have thought of ſuch unheard-of proceedings, had they not had a falſe repreſentation of the matter.

"Do not think I am under any conſtraint when I ſay, and call that God who muſt judge of the truth to witneſs, that not a man living could have uſed more humanity than capt. Forſter did after the ſurrender of the party I belonged to; and whoever ſays to the contrary, let his ſtation in life be what it will, he is an enemy to peace, and a ſallacious diſturber of mankind.

What reaſon they can give for not redeeming us, I cannot conceive: if they are wrongly informed that the affair of the Cedars was a maſſacre, why do not they rather fulfil the cartel than let their hoſtages remain in the hands of a mercileſs enemy? Or do they regard their troops only while the heavens make them victorious? Were we in the hands of a rigorous power (as they would intimate) have they not every colour of juſtice, after ſo enormous a breach of faith, loaded with chains, to caſt us into ſome horrid place, and tell us to languiſh out our days under a ſentence paſſed by our own people? If they ſay there is ſome hidden reaſon, that is far beyond the reach of policy to find out. For could they ſuppoſe it policy to diſtreſs his majeſty's troops, by retaining ſuch a number of men from them, it would not be the breach of their faith only that would threaten them; for conſider the number of priſoners already in the hands of the Britiſh army, and alſo conſider the chance of war that may yet throw greater numbers into their hands; and will people reſt content, when they find their own rulers willing to let them remain priſoners, in the hands of what themſelves term (though unjuſtly) a mercileſs people? Or will they not, fired with reſentment for ſuch inhuman treatment, take arms to ſuppreſs the power that regards them no longer than while their blood is ſpilling in their ſervice? If this, which appears too probable, ſhould happen, conſider whether thoſe priſoners will not be followed by a number of their friends, which muſt naturally make a great diviſion upon the colonies; then take a view of Great Britain and her allies pouring on you, and let the moſt ſanguine expecter in America then judge how long the colonies thus divided can ſtand the fury of the combat.

"I know your influence has been great; and for that reaſon have wrote, that you may, if poſſible, yet prevent America from being branded with the name of injuſtice.

"If you ſuſpect I write this for the ſake of getting my own liberty, your ſuſpicions wrong me; it is not my own confinement, but the breach of the treaty (which even ſavages have ever held ſacred) that cauſes me to write.

"You'll be ſo kind as to convey the incloſed to my wife; and if ever I had ſo much of your love as to demand any favour of you, let this be the time that I may implore your aſſiſtance for my diſtreſſed wife and helpleſs orphans. May God grant I may once more ſee them! till when I am your affectionate brother,

(Signed) EBENEZER SULLIVAN."

The following is an extract of a letter dated Ticonderoga, July 29. *which appeared in* Holt's *New-York Journal of Aug.* 22.

"We have lately received a ſupply of freſh beef, which has been of infinite ſervice, having recovered all our ſick, and put the whole army into high ſpirits. Our marine force conſiſts of eight gondolas, and four ſchooners. We are going from here down the lake, in order to take St John's, which Burgoyne has poſ-

ſeſſion of at preſent. As we have numbers, and our army are determined, I do not entertain the leaſt doubt of ſucceſs."

Extract of a letter from an officer at St John's on Lake Champlain, Aug. 31.

"Every thing goes on ſmoothly here: one veſſel of twelve guns, called the Carleton, is launched, the Maria of fourteen guns, will ſoon be ready; and yeſterday the keel of a ſhip of 300 tons was laid. There are alſo on the ſtocks two floating batteries, one of which will be ſoon finiſhed; ſo that when every thing is ready, ſhips, batteries, flat-bottomed boats, and batteaus, I think we ſhall make a figure, not only on the lakes, but in hiſtory too. Mr Arnold I hear is appointed to the command of the marine of the rebels, but he is ſo much in the habit of running away, that we do not apprehend much oppoſition from him."

Extract of a letter from capt. Denniſon, of the Expedition tranſport, Halifax, Sept 2.

"Being commiſſioned by lord Howe, after our arrival at Sandy Hook, with the fleet under his command, to return to Halifax with inſtructions for gov. Arbuthnot, and with directions for all thoſe veſſels that ſhould arrive at Halifax, to proceed immediately to the northward. I ſailed on the voyage without interruption until we arrived in lat. 44. when two ſmall American privateers bore down upon us, leaving a large brig aſtern of them, which we afterwards found was a prize they had taken the day before, being a tranſport from Corke, called the James, capt. O'Reilly, laden with proviſions for the Britiſh troops. As we mounted eight guns, I ordered the veſſel to be laid to, and every thing prepared for the engagement, which continued for about one glaſs, when the ſmalleſt privateer ſtruck to us, and the other ſheered off with her prize. The veſſel we took carried five guns, and was called the Adventurer, capt. Bronſon; the other was called the Defiance, of eight guns, capt. Morris, of the ſame port. We brought our prize ſafe into this port, where ſhe has been condemned and ſold, the men ſharing near 12l. each."

ENGLAND.

LONDON, OCTOBER 12.—*to* 19.

A letter from lord Percy to a gentleman, dated camp at Newton, Long Iſland, Sept. 4. after complimenting the guards for their gallant behaviour, ſays,

"It was the general's orders that the troops ſhould receive the rebels' firſt fire, and then ruſh on them, before they had recovered their arms, with their bayonets, which threw them into the utmoſt diſorder and confuſion, they being unacquainted with ſuch a manœuvre. A light dragoon diſcovering three riflemen in a wood, who had ſecreted themſelves in order to pick out the officers as they appeared, attacked them, ſhot one, and took the other two priſoners, and brought them to lord Percy, who rewarded him for his gallant behaviour. A great many horſes belonging to Preſton's regiment, that were left in Boſton at the evacuation, were found on Long Iſland."

A letter from a field officer to his lady in Glouceſter, dated camp in Long Iſland, Sept. 1. after giving an account of the late engagement there between the king's troops and the provincials, concludes thus:—"I have juſt heard there has been a moſt dreadful fray in the town of New-York. The New-Englanders inſiſted upon ſetting the town on fire, and retreating. This was oppoſed by the New Yorkers, who were joined by the Pennſylvanians, and a battle has been the conſequence, in which many have loſt their lives. By the ſteps the general is taking, I imagine he will effectually cut off their retreat at King's-bridge, by which the iſland of New-York is joined to the continent."

A letter from an officer of the guards who was on the expedition againſt Long Iſland, after mentioning the action, agreeing pretty nearly with the Gazette, contains the following addition, which confirms the preceding article:—"That it is very certain that the rebels do not agree among themſelves: that three nights ago there was a good deal of firing in the town of New-York: that the New-Englanders and Pennſylvanians wanted to ſet fire to the town: that the New-Yorkers oppoſed it, and that a battle enſued, in conſequence of which the New-England and Pennſylvania people had withdrawn themſelves; and that this, with other favourable circumſtances, gave hopes that this diſtreſsful buſineſs would be ſoon brought to a happy iſſue."

A letter from Long Iſland, dated September 4. ſays, "Mr Waſhington has iſſued a recommendation, that all the women, children, and infirm perſons,

leave the city of New-York, as a bombardment and attack may be hourly expected; adding the following words:—"Trufting that with the bleffing of heaven upon the American arms, they may foon return to it in perfect fecurity."—From which, add'd to certain accounts, that there are fix thoufand of their foldiers fick in the place, it may be hoped, that loyal city may not be facrificed to the inexorable fury of fanatical and conventional proferiptions. Our profpects of its fafety are ftrengthened by the following circumftances:—In the night of the 2d inft. three perfons efcaped from the city in a canoe, and informed our general, that Mr Waffington had ordered three battalions of New-York provincials to leave New-York, and that they fhould be replaced by an equal number of Connecticut troops; but the former, affured that the Connecticutians would burn and deftroy all the houfes, peremptorily refufed to give up their city, declaring, that no caufe of exiftence whatfoever, fhould induce them to intruft the defence of it to any other than its own inhabitants;—this fpirited and freeborn refolution prevailed over their commander, and the New-Yorkers continue fingly in poffeffion of the place. We have alfo been informed, that the two battalions from Cumberland county in Penfylvania, are fick of the conteft, and dreading the light infantry, Heffians, Chaffeurs, and dragoons of the royal army, have very prudently bid adieu to military atchievements, and in a body returned to their own farms, there to cultivate the arts of peace and reconciliation."

A letter from New-York Harbour, dated Sept. 2, fays, "We have this day taken poffeffion of Governor's Ifland. The rebels are taking their cannon from New-York. Gen. Howe is at Hell-Gate, about 13 miles from the city. Every thing is conducted with the greateft fecrecy and propriety, but we imagine our troops will be at the back of the city in 48 hours. The rebels fly every where before our foldiers; the day after the laft action 1040 were buried. The woods on Long Ifland ftink with the dead corpfes. We had 200 killed and wounded. In fhort, they dread the Englifh forces."

In one of the letters received from Long Ifland is the following poftfcript: "We are all impatient to attack New-York: The rebels are incredibly ftrong; but we don't mind that. The firft fix men that enter the poft called Hell-gate are to be rewarded by our general; fo that many look with a jealous eye towards Hell, and it is expected there will be a great ftruggle to get into it."

A letter has been received from Ireland, which fays, that authentic intelligence was received by a veffel, that inftant arrived at the Cove of Corke, that gen. Sir William Howe had poffeffed himfelf of King's Bridge, on the morning of the 5th of September, without any material oppofition, and that he expected to be in poffeffion of the city of New-York before fun fet.

Many private letters from and off Long Ifland are unanimous in paying every compliment to the clemency and humanity of gen. Howe. He gives the captive provincial generals and officers their proper titles, and treats them with a refpect due to their unfortunate fituations: he even had the confidence in gen. Sullivan to make him his plenipotentiary to gen. Waffhington; and fome of the private letters mention, that it is his intention (fo little is he difpofed to fhed the blood of his fellow-fubjects) upon every victory to offer the fame terms of reconciliation he did in the beginning.

A letter from New-York mentions, that gen. Waffhington was gone to Philadelphia to confult with the congrefs, what further fteps were proper to be taken for the fecurity of the colony, and Putnam was to have the command in his abfence.

It is reported, that gen. Lee has arrived at Hudfon's river with 2000 men from Virginia; but how he will be able to pafs the river (which he muft do before he reaches New-York) is a queftion.

Col. Grant, who was lately killed on Long Ifland, did not fall in the action, but a little before it, while he was reconnoitering the enemy on the fkirts of a wood.

Many people are furprifed to hear that the provincials, who are in their own climate, and have all along had plenty of freh provifions, fhould be afflicted with putrid diforders, while the king's troops, who are in a foreign climate, and have hitherto had little elfe than falt provifions, enjoy the moft perfect health. But this difference, fuppofing it to be real, may be eafily accounted for, from the great cleanlinefs of regular troops,

and the comparative want of cleanlineſs among militia; for the provincials with all their courage and ſpirit, in which they certainly are not deficient, are as yet little better than a militia. Among regular troops every private ſoldier is obliged to put on a clean ſhirt twice, perhaps three times a-week, according to the ſeaſon and climate; and there are a certain number of officers appointed every day, to ſee that each man waſhes his own linen, if he has not a woman to do it for him. But, in this reſpect, a militia are left, in a great meaſure, to follow their own inclinations, which, we may be ſure, will lean to the ſide of lazineſs, and conſequently of dirtineſs. The difference between theſe two kinds of troops in point of cleanlineſs, is in other reſpects is remarkable while they are encamped.

By an authentic letter we learn, that gen. Burgoyne had engaged the rebels near Crown Point, and, after an engagement of ſome hours, had intirely routed the enemy with great ſlaughter: that 1200 of them had been precipitately drove into the ſwamps, where the greateſt part of them were ſuffocated, and the reſt made priſoners.

Oath of office adminiſtered to and taken by his excellency John Rutledge, Eſq; preſident and commander in chief of the colony of South Carolina, March 28. 1776. "I ſolemnly promiſe and ſwear to preſide over the people of this colony, according to the conſtitution or form of government agreed to and reſolved upon by the repreſentatives of South Carolina in congreſs aſſembled, on the 26th day of March, 1776: That I will cauſe law and juſtice in mercy to be executed, and to the utmoſt of my power maintain and defend the laws of God, the Proteſtant religion, and the liberties of America. So help me God!"

A letter from an Engliſh gentleman at Paris, dated Oct. 3. ſays, "In the royal yards, both at Breſt and Toulon, the artificers have received freſh orders to work night and day in fitting out a fleet, which is to be ready to put to ſea the 5th of next month. Their deſtination is ſaid here to be for the Weſt Indies."

A letter from Paris, dated Oct. 10. ſays, "The following deed of aſſaſſination lately happened at Bourdeaux: A capital merchant there received a box from Marſeilles, directed to him, with advice that it was ſent to him by a ſtranger, who intended to draw upon him; and, as the box contained goods of great value, he was deſired to open it himſelf: but the moment he opened the box, a ſpring-gun went off, and killed him on the ſpot."

They write from Bilboa, that an American privateer of eight guns had put in there, and was detained; ſhe had on board the captain of an Engliſh ſhip which ſhe had taken; he declared that there were 16 other privateers out, in order to intercept the merchantmen coming from Spain. The privateer has taken five ſhips, and moſt likely his companions will have taken others, which has cauſed people there to form a reſolution of not loading on board any Engliſh ſhips, nor of receiving any goods by them.—The privateer ſays, when ſhe left Rhode Iſland ſhe mounted 8 guns, and had 50 men, but having taken a tranſport that mounted 14 guns, and a ſhip (the Savannah) from Oporto, with 300 pipes of wine, and a valuable cargo in ſpecie, beſides three other ſhips, ſhe had put all her men on board except fourteen, the number ſhe brought into Bilboa.

There has been an engagement off Jamaica between three of the king's frigates, viz. the Nero, Cæſar, and Hawke, and five American privateers; when, after a conteſt of ſeveral hours, in which great bravery was diſplayed on both ſides, one of the frigates was diſmaſted, and taken by the enemy; the others put into Port Royal in a ſhattered condition. *Extract of a letter from Lancaſter, Oct. 10.*

"I have this day received, in the poſtſcript of a letter from Jamaica, an account, that advice was received by a ſociety of merchants at Kingſton, from capt. Jacobs of the Hunter privateer, fitted out by them, that on the 12th of Auguſt he met with (off Port-au-Prince) the Congreſs of 18 ſix pounders, Peter Marks captain, who ſtruck after an engagement of half an hour. She was laden with gun-powder, arms, and military ſtores; and it is ſaid the cargo alone is worth 20,000l."

Letters from Antigua by the Lord Mangon, Piper, which is arrived at Belfaſt, bring advice, that three American privateers were taken by his majeſty's ſhip Liverpool, and were brought in there; they had on board arms, ammunition, &c. &c.

A letter from Liverpool of Oct. 14.

ſays, "This day arrived the Rockingham, capt. Charles, from Jamaica, by whom we have advice, that the William, capt. Bond, bound alſo for this port from Jamaica, was taken by an American privateer, in lat. 36. and we are in great fear for the reſt of the ſhips bound here."

The Eagle, Barnes, from Barbadoes to London, was taken by an American privateer in July laſt near Bermuda, and is carried into Rhode Iſland.

The following letter was communicated to the right hon. the lord mayor of Dublin, by his excellency the lord lieutenant of Ireland.

"*Sir*, *Cork, Oct.* 4.

"I beg leave to ſend you the following information, which may be depended upon; three American privateers ſailed from Salem in July laſt, for the weſtern iſlands of Madeira, to wait for the outward bound Weſt Indiamen; one ſailed the ſame time to the Straits, and two others to our Iriſh channel, to intercept the linen ſhips; the latter carry eight guns each, and ſeventy-five men. I requeſt you will lay this letter, with my humbly duty, before his excellency the lord lieutenant, and requeſt a copy may be ſent forward to England.

I am, Sir,

ROBERT GORDON, Commiſſary.

To Thomas Waite, Eſq.

Letters from Dublin of the 7th of October ſay, that an account is received there of an American privateer, carrying 16 guns, being met with off the harbour of Kinſale by ſome fiſhing boats, from the maſters of which the Americans purchaſed ſome fiſh.

In conſequence of a general meeting of Weſt India merchants, and an application from them to the admiralty, the convoy, which was intended to ſail with the fleet for the Weſt Indies on the 20th inſtant, is put off till the 28th, then to ſail, waiting only 48 hours for the ſhips from the Downs.

Orders are iſſued from the privy-council, for the priviledged priſoners (officers and commanders excepted) to be carried in tranſports to Gibraltar, and, when there, the governor will be veſted with a power of granting them their pardon, on condition that they ſerve five years in the company's ſettlements in the Eaſt Indies, for their paſſage to which the outward bound Eaſt-Indiamen are to touch at Gibraltar. Thoſe who refuſe theſe conditions, will be brought to England, and tried as rebels.

The Eaſt India Company, it is ſaid, have agreed to allow government five pounds a-man, for every provincial priſoner fit to bear arms, that ſhall be delivered on board their ſhips in the Bay of Gibraltar, between this and the 25th of March, incluſive.

An evening paper ſays, that the treaty for 20,000 Ruſſians was concluded before the receipt of gen. Howe's laſt letter; but as there is the following clauſe in the treaty, "Provided they ſhould be wanted," and the miniſtry are ſtrongly of opinion they can now do without them, it is thought they will not viſit America, and that government will be only at the expence of the new-raiſed levies amongſt that corps.

Yeſterday Hugh Elliot, Eſq; ſon of Sir Gilbert Elliot, miniſter plenipotentiary at Ratiſbon, juſt arrived in England, attended the levee at James's, when his majeſty was pleaſed to appoint him envoy extraordinary to Pruſſia, in the room of James Harris, Eſq; who is appointed ambaſſador at the court of Peterſburgh.

Yeſterday his majeſty in council was pleaſed to ſign ſome further inſtructions for gen. Howe in America, to be ſent over by major Cuyler.

The ſame day major Cuyler was preſent at the drawing-room, at which time he received Sir William Howe's order and ribband, which he is to carry to him.

The ſame day major Cuyler took leave of his majeſty, and ſet out for Portſmouth, from which place he will ſail in the Hyde packet for America.—His majeſty, we hear, has made the major a very valuable preſent.

Yeſterday the lady of gen. Sir William Howe was introduced to their majeſties as lady Howe, for the firſt time.

The ſame day the hon. Mr Shaw Cathcart, brother to lord Cathcart, was introduced to his majeſty by his brother, and moſt graciouſly received; at the ſame time he took leave of his majeſty, and immediately ſet out for Portſmouth in order to embark as a volunteer for America.

The ſame day lord Mansfield was at court, and had the honour to kiſs the king's hand, on being created earl Mansfield.—It is ſaid that the title of earl Mansfield is to deſcend to the iſſue male of lord Stormont, nephew to lord Mansfield, and ambaſſador at the French court.

A plan has been laid before the lords of the treaſury, for raiſing a certain ſum for the ſervice of the enſuing year, by annuities, with the benefit of ſurvivorſhip, and is now under conſideration.

A correſpondent ſends us the following contraſted character of two European queens: The queen of F——, ſays he, has a natural propenſity to diſſipation; the queen of E——— is the model of temperance, prudence, and œconomy: The queen of F——— loves gallantry; the queen of E——— abhors it: The queen of F—— is preſuming, headſtrong, and loquacious; the queen of E—— is diffident, ſenſible, and diſcreet: The queen of F—— yields to the voice of flattery and adulation; the queen of E—— admires ſincerity and truth: The former occaſionally commences ſtateſwoman, and directs the councils of a nation; the latter exerts all her talents in promoting the private happineſs of her family, and the public good of ſociety.

A correſpondent ſays, "In the reign of James I. the ſalary of the chief juſtice of the King's Bench was 224 l. 19 s. 6 d.; the chief of the common pleas 161 l. 10 s. 1 d.; the chief Baron 154 l. 19 s. 8 d.;—with 33 l. 6 s. 8 d. allowed for their expences on the circuits. Now the ſalary of one of theſe is more than double that of the whole three.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH, OCTOBER 24.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Antigua, to his father in Edinburgh, dated Aug. 24.

"The American privateers are plenty in theſe ſeas: A gentleman, who went from this iſland ſome time ago, came back this day, having had the misfortune to be taken in lat. 30. The provincials took his ſhip, which was loaded with ſugar, cotton, &c. and ſuppoſed to be worth 16,000 l. ſterling. They gave him a ſmall ſchooner to carry him back to the Weſt-Indies. The captain and mates were Scotſmen, but moſt of the men were Iriſh. The gentleman ſays, that they took ſix veſſels that day; but there is little doubt that moſt of them will be retaken, as their coaſt is ſo lined with our men of war, that it will be almoſt impoſſible to get them into any of their ports. One of the American privateers lately engaged his majeſty's ſhip Shark, of 16 guns, off the iſland of Martinico, but the privateer ſheered off, and, being a faſter ſailer than the Shark, made her eſcape."

Extract of a letter from an officer in the 31ſt regiment, to his wife at Muſſelburgh, dated Sept. 1.

"We have now between four and five hundred batteaus finiſhed, and expect in a few days to croſs the lakes, where I make no doubt the rebels will give us battle, as they are ſtrongly intrenched at Ticonderoga. We are quite ignorant of what is doing in the ſouth, as we have no intelligence from general Howe's army."

Extract of a letter from an officer at Long-Iſland, to his friend in Aberdeen, dated Sept. 4.

"The loſs of the rebels muſt exceed 2000 men. It is ſaid we have ruined upwards of 4000. It is impoſſible to aſcertain the number killed. The priſoners amount to 1200.—Our loſs is inconſiderable, not exceeding 300 men, and would have been leſs but for the following accident: The ſecond battalion of grenadiers, which was ſent from our right to ſupport gen. Grant, unfortunately miſtook a rebel regiment (blue faced with red) for the Heſſians, and received ſeveral fires from them without returning it; and lieut. Ragg of the marines, and 20 men, being ſent out to ſpeak to them, were made priſoners. At length the miſtake being diſcovered, they were ſoon beat and diſperſed; but we loſt ſeveral officers and men, and ſome of the rebels got off.—Immediately after the action, their works were inveſted, and on the 28th we began to make approaches; but, to our great aſtoniſhment, on the 29th at night they totally abandoned all their ſtrong works on this iſland, and fled to New-York, which they in ſome meaſure left at our mercy. Their hurry and confuſion muſt have been very great, as they left ſome guns and many of their tents, &c. behind them; but we were not appriſed of their flight till day-break. I was at our new works all night, but they were ſo ſtill we did not ſuſpect them. Six pieces of braſs cannon and ſeveral colours were taken on the 27th. Our army is now moved to the right, along the eaſt river, oppoſite to York-Iſland. The rebels are ſtill there. Their reaſons for abandoning their works are incomprehenſible; nor can their motions be accounted for. It is ſaid they are going off York-Iſland."

Extract of a letter from Port-Glaſgow, Oct. 14.

"Yeſterday the Spiers, from the bay of Honduras with mahogany, arrived here, under the command of Mr William Carmichael, formerly the mate of the ſaid veſſel.—She ſailed from the bay on the 15th of July laſt, and, on the 6th of September, long. 56. 13. lat. 40. 50. fell in with the Eagle ſchooner of Rhode Iland, an American privateer, commanded by Elijah Freeman Payne, burden about 50 tons, mounted with ſix carriage guns and ten ſwivels, and 50 men, who took the maſter of the Spiers (Lamont), all the papers belonging to the veſſel, and ſome bales of dry goods on board, putting her under the command of one Mr Hall, in character of a lieutenant and prize-maſter.

"The ſchooner had then under convoy the Caledonia, M'Kinlay, bound from Grenada to Clyde, loaded with ſugar and rum, which ſailed from Grenada on the 3d, and was taken on the 30th Auguſt, long. 50. lat. 40.—On the 28th of Auguſt, ſhe took the Venus, Collins, from the bay of Honduras with logwood and mahogany; and, on the 29th of the ſame month, the Nancy, Tuckley, a brigantine from Virginia, with 300 hogſheads of tobacco, having a pretended clearance from lord Dunmore for London, and another from the congreſs for Dunkirk, and ſent both veſſels to ſome port on the continent.

"The mate of the Caledonia, and one Mr Williamſon of Dundee, a paſſenger from Grenada, being ſuſpected of concerting a ſcheme for carrying off the veſſel, were taken out of the Caledonia, and put on board the Spiers, with another paſſenger and three hands, alſo part of the crew of the Venus and Nancy, making in all twenty-ſeven people; and, the better to ſecure her from the leaſt attempt of an eſcape, allowed them only 150 lib. of bread and two barrels of beef for proviſions.

"On the 15th of September, long. 64. 22. lat. 41. 33. by ſtreſs of a fog, and a gale of wind ſpringing up, Mr Carmichael took command of the Spiers, parted from the ſchooner, and ſteered directly for Clyde.—When he found himſelf clear, he ordered a ſpar to be cut in pieces, which he ſhaped into wooden guns; and though ſeveral American armed veſſels appeared for the firſt three days after, yet none of them attempted to come near him, taking her to be a veſſel of force.

"They were put to allowance of proviſions, which ran ſo ſhort, that they carefully caught rats by traps, which proved to them moſt delicious morſels, when, on the 25th of September, they eſpied a ſail making from them, to which they gave chace, long. 47. 17. lat. 44. 32. and coming up with her, found her to be the John, Alexander Simes maſter, from Plymouth, who ſupplied them with bread, beef and potatoes; and off Tory ſpoke with the Mercury, ——— Holmes maſter, from Newfoundland for Clyde, who ſupplied them with fiſh, butter, beef, bread, and every other neceſſary article.

"We hear the Spiers was inſured at London; and we make no doubt of the inſurers rewarding Mr Carmichael's merit in this lucky adventure."

On Monday the 30th of September, about eleven o'clock, the brig Union, John Moore maſter, belonging to Mr Dunn and Co. in Dublin, bound from Corke to Rotterdam, laden with linen, ſoap, tallow, &c. and which had eighty-two paſſengers and nine ſailors on board, went on ſhore on a ſandy bank off the iſland of Goree, at the entrance of Helvoetſluys, in a hard gale of wind at N. W. right on, and every perſon on board periſhed, except James Donning, a mariner, who was taken up ſpeechleſs, and carried to Helvoetſluys, where he was treated with the greateſt humanity and tenderneſs. The veſſel went to pieces about four o'clock the next morning, and the whole cargo loſt. This account is given by the ſaid James Donning, who ſailed from Helvoetſluys to Harwich in the Prince of Wales packet.

The General Wolfe packet, captain Macleod, ſailed from Liverpool yeſterday ſe'en-night for Dublin, with paſſengers. The number on board, with the crew, were about forty four. The ſame evening, off the Ormſhead, ſhe was unfortunately run down by the Hawke tender, lieut. Scott commander, by which melancholy accident twenty-three perſons were loſt, amongſt whom are a clergyman and his lady.

The circuit-court was opened at Stirling, on the 16th current, by lord Kames. William Macglie was tried for theft, found guilty, and condemned to be whipped and banithed for life, and his ſervice adjudged for ſeven years.—Anne

Wilſon and Betty Young were tried for ſtealing five webs of cloth that were bleaching, found guilty, and condemned to ſtand on the pillory at Stirling, and to be baniſhed for life, and their ſervice adjudged for ſeven years.—George Haig, ſhoemaker in Falkirk, was tried for celebrating clandeſtine and irregular marriages, not being a miniſter of the eſtabliſhed church. He was found guilty, and, in terms of the act of parliament againſt clandeſtine and unlawful marriages in the year 1661, was baniſhed Scotland, never to return under the pain of death.

We learn from Elgin, that there were ſown this year, near that place, two bolls of flax upon the ſame ſpot of ground. The firſt was ſown on the 23d March, and pulled the 3d of July; the ſecond was ſown the 4th of July, and pulled the 24th of September: A part of the firſt being already dreſſed, yielded ſix ſtanks in the pound without taking above the griſt; the ſecond appears to be as good as the firſt, and is allowed by thoſe who have ſeen it to be an excellent crop, but is not yet dreſſed. An exact account has been kept of every thing in regard to the ſeed, growing, pulling, &c. and the quantity of land by Mr James Cruden merchant in Elgin.

The provincial ſynod of Aberdeen have appointed the ſecond Wedneſday of November next to be obſerved, in all the parishes within their bounds, as a ſolemn thankſgiving to Almighty God for all his mercies, particularly for his unfailing goodneſs in the late harveſt.

Extract of a letter from Preſtonpans, Oct. 17.

"On Monday laſt, as two farmers were returning home from an annual meeting held here, betwixt eleven and twelve o'clock at night, they were attacked by four villains on the road beſide the dykes which leads from this town to Tranent, who, jumping over Mr Home's garden-wall, robbed them of their money; and, expecting more than they found, beat them ſo with their ſticks that they left them motionleſs. They were taken up by ſome carters, and carried into Preſton. The ruffians had been drinking moſt part of the afternoon in an ale-houſe in Preſton, and had already had intelligence that the farmers had money with them. The farmers, however, not two hours before they were attacked, had luckily paid away 350 l. ſterling. One of them is bruiſed very ſhockingly about the head.

On Thurſday ſe'en-night the magiſtrates of Canongate made choice of the hon. Henry Erſkine, Eſq; advocate, to be their aſſeſſor, in the room of George Clerk, Eſq; deceaſed.

On Thurſday laſt the earl and counteſs of Roſeberry arrived here from London.

His grace the duke of Buccleugh has given fifty guineas towards compleating the weſt road to Leith.

On Monday there was a meeting of the convenery of this city, to conſider of the propriety of an application, to remove the grievance, ſo long and ſo juſtly complained of, of the council's having a power to ſhorten the leets in the election of deacons. It was unanimouſly agreed that each of the incorporations ſhould immediately meet to chuſe delegates to concur with the convener, and the other parties concerned, in taking the proper meaſures for remedying this grievance.

For the WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

A ſhort Deſcription of a new MONUMENT *in the Grey-friars Church-yard.*

ON the 28th of September laſt, there was opened, in the eaſt end of the Grey-friars church-yard, an elegant monument in the form of a pyramid. It is erected to the memory of the right hon. Lady Catharine Powlet, the ſiſter of his grace Hary Duke of Bolton, and the wife of Adam Drummond of Meginch, Eſq; She died at Edinburgh on the 1ſt day of October 1774.

The lower part or pedeſtal of the monument is about three feet ſix inches ſquare. In its center there is an inſcription-table of white marble, which is ſurrounded and adorned with a beautiful border and mouldings. Above there is a plinth or baſe, upon which there riſes, to the height of eight feet ſeven inches, a pyramid of one intire piece of dove-coloured marble.

On the face of the pyramid there are cut the arms of Mr Drummond and Lady Catharine: On its three ſides there are roſes and feſtoons; and on its top there is placed a Roman urn, with the proper ornaments and drapery.

The monument was deſigned by Mr

Stuart, architect at London, and is executed by Mr Gowan, marble-cutter in Edinburgh.

On the table of white marble, in the center of the pedestal, there is the following inscription.

Memoriæ Sacrum
Nobilissimæ Dominæ CATHARINÆ POWLET,
Filiæ illustrissimi Henrici Ducis de Bolton,
Uxoris ADAMI DRUMMOND de Megginch,
Per viginti annos optime de illo meritæ.

Quæ amputationem mammæ
Summa fortitudine perpessa,
Miserabile dictu! quinto inde luce
Lotis concessit.
Die Octobris 1760, A. D. MDCCLXXIV.
Ætatis LIV.

Hoc exiguum monumentum,
Ubi fere conduntur reliquiæ,
Ultimum (heu!) obsequii et desiderii sui
pignus
Extruendum curavit et inscripsit maritus,
Intimâ dolore percussus.

On the table on the south-side of the pedestal there are these lines:

Quis desiderio sit pudor, aut modus,
Tam chari capitis? Præcipe lugubres
Incorrupta fides, nudaque veritas,
Quando ullam invenient parem?

Digna de multis face nuptiali
Debita spargam lacrymula favilla,
Et meriam, et vestri memorem sepulchro,
Sculpo querelas.

On the east-side.

Te, dulcis conjunx, te solo in nemore mecum
Te vocante dies, te decedente vocaby,
Ah te nunc cum pariem animæ rapit
Maturior vis, quid moror altera?

On the north-side there is this inscription:

Here lies interr'd
The Right Honourable Lady CATHARINE POWLET, Daughter of his Grace Harry Duke of Bolton, Spouse of ADAM DRUMMOND of Megginch.
For goodness of heart, free of all guile,
For sincere honesty as a friend,
For faithful affection as a wife,
For preferring domestic happiness to courtly splendor,
And decent œconomy to dissipated profusion,
Equall'd by few,
Surpass'd by none.
In justice to her worthy character,
From the constant experience of twenty years,
This sepulchral testimony is inscribed
By her much griev'd and afflicted husband,
As the last pledge of his heart-felt duty
And most tender regard.

His saltem accumulem donis, et fungar inani
Munere.

MARRIAGES.

Oct. 17. At Edinburgh, Archibald Menzies of Culdairs, Esq; one of the commissioners of the customs, to Miss Fanny Rutherfurd, only daughter of John Rutherfurd, Esq; of North Carolina.

17. At ditto, Archibald Swinton, Esq; of Mandertton, to Miss Henrietta Campbell, eldest daughter of the late James Campbell, Esq; of Blythswood.

BIRTH.

Oct. 17. At London, the countess of Derby, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

Sept. 7. At Lisbon, aged 33, Don Nuno Cajetan Alvares Pereira de Mello, Duc de Cadaval, chief of a branch of the house of Braganza.

—. At Margate, William Parry, Esq; son of admiral Parry.

Oct. 2. At his seat at Newtown, in the Island of Barbecuia, after a long and tedious illness, Ronald Macdonald, Esq; of Clanranald.

14. At Dartford in Kent, in his 89th year, Mr Carey, who lost both his legs and one arm in an engagement in the rebellion 1745.

CIVIL PROMOTIONS.

St James's, Oct. 15. The king has been pleased to confer the honour of the most honourable order of the Bath on the honourable William Howe, major-general of his majesty's forces, and general of his majesty's forces in North America.

Oct. 18. —To grant unto the right hon. William lord Mansfield and to his heirs-male, the dignity of an earl of the kingdom of Great Britain, by the title of earl Mansfield in the county of Nottingham, with remainder to the heirs-male of the body of his father.

To our CORRESPONDENTS.

The observations of CLAUDIUS shall appear soon, though they seem to be carelessly and incorrectly wrote.

We are sorry we are obliged to postpone our good friend Mr D—— L——'s propofals till our next.

J. R.'s speculations under consideration.

CLARINDA's sentiments are agreeable, but we must take the liberty she allows us,—to correct even a lady.

The observations of *No Miller* will require a revisal. They are new, and may be of service.

The Blackbird is a tolerable imitation of Melmoth's Nightingale.

A. P.'s rhapsody would cost much time and labour to tack up.